

### Fateh battalion joins rebels

DAMASCUS (R) — An artillery battalion of the mainstream Fateh guerrilla group in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley Wednesday joined rebels opposing Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat. Its battalion commander told reporters who visited the area. Major Ahmad Kamel Ahmad said he and his officers and fighters had joined the rebels and "put themselves and all their potentialities at their disposal, to confront the Zionist enemy." He said his decision was prompted by Mr. Arafat's failure to respond to rebel demands and to "announce his clear and explicit views on Middle East peace plans, notably the Reagan proposals." Rebel military leader Colonel Abu Musa, who visited the battalion Wednesday, told reporters the rebels would refuse to be committed to any resolution on the Fateh dispute which the PLO Central Council might adopt at its meeting in Tunis Wednesday.

# Jordan Times

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### Algeria denounces U.S. veto

PARIS (R) — Under the heading "the Eternal American Veto," the official Algerian news agency APS Wednesday made a scathing attack on the American vote against the U.N. Security Council resolution on Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territory. In a commentary received in Paris, the agency deplored the American veto, the 36th cast by Washington since the U.N.'s foundation. Remarking that the American delegate had said the resolution contained elements unacceptable to Washington, the agency asked: "What are these unacceptable elements? A stop to the installation of colonies or the dismantling of existing ones?" The agency said the resolution made it clear that the settlements were "a real danger and a permanent obstacle to the establishment of peace in the area. It is probably this peace that the United States is striving to lead into deadlock because it is against its interests in the area."

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### Badran receives ex-Armico chairman

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran conferred in his office Wednesday with Dr. Abdul Razzak Al Hashimi, Iraqi minister of higher education, who had served as board chairman of the Arab Mining Company (Armico). Mr. Badran's meeting with Dr. Hashimi was to mark the end of the Iraqi minister's term as Armico chairman. The meeting was attended by Armico's Director-General Thabet Al Taher.

### Royal decree approves new ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — A royal decree was issued Wednesday approving the cabinet's appointments of Jordanian ambassadors to Japan, the Soviet Union, India and North Yemen. According to the decree, Mr. Sa'd Al Batayneh will be ambassador plenipotentiary to Japan, Mr. Fahd Al Tawel ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mr. Mohammad Ali Khorma ambassador to India, and Mr. Zuhair Sakejha ambassador to North Yemen.

### 6 Israelis jailed for refusing duty

TEL AVIV (R) — Six Israeli soldiers have been sentenced to military prison for refusing to serve in Lebanon, a group opposed to the Lebanese war said Wednesday. A spokesman for the *Yesh Gvul* (there is a limit) group said five reservists and one conscript received prison terms of 14 to 28 days. One trooper was imprisoned for the third time and his sentences totalled 108 days.

### Dhaka students go on strike

DHAKA (R) — Students at Dhaka University went on strike Wednesday to press demands for an early end to 16 months of military rule and a return to civilian democracy. They locked all lecture rooms and appealed to staff to leave. One student leader said various colleges in the city also staged one-day strikes.

### Ghana sentences 4 to death

ACCRA (R) — Four people accused of conspiring to overthrow the Ghanaian government were sentenced to death by a public tribunal Wednesday. An announcement from the tribunal said seven others were sentenced to 18-year prison terms and two were discharged for insufficient evidence. Two of the four sentenced to die were tried in absentia.

### 'Hitler diaries' reporter back in jail

HAMBURG (R) — Gerd Heidemann, the journalist who bought the forged "Hitler diaries" for the West German magazine Stern, was back in police custody Wednesday less than 24 hours after being released, a court spokesman said. Mr. Heidemann, who is awaiting trial on fraud charges, was freed Tuesday on condition that he reported to the police regularly and did not leave West Germany. But the Hamburg state prosecutor appealed against the decision and a higher court ruled Wednesday that Heidemann would have to return to custody.

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## PCC moves to achieve Fateh truce

By Lamis Andoni and Abdullah Al 'Utum  
Special to the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i

TUNIS — The Palestine Central Council (PCC) Wednesday called for an immediate ceasefire between feuding factions in the Fateh commando movement and urged all Palestinian organisations to stop media attacks against each other and Syria.

The PCC made the two decisions after the first session of an emergency meeting in the Tunisian capital. The council also formed a special committee to carry out the implementation of the decisions.

The emergency session of the council was called by the PLO leadership in a move designed to reiterate the legitimacy and authority of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, whose leadership is being questioned by rebels in his own mainstream movement in the PLO, Fateh.

The Fateh rebels, who are demanding that Mr. Arafat change his moderate policies in the Palestinian struggle against Israel and reforms in the movement, have repeatedly clashed with supporters of the PLO chairman based in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. PLO forces are stationed in the Bekaa along with Syrian troops facing the Israeli army occupying Lebanon.

Several top PLO officials have said in the past week that Mr. Arafat would consider pulling out his loyalist forces from the Bekaa if this was what Syria wanted. But the present mood is to try to dig in and seek some arrangement with

Damascus, Palestinian sources said. The council, a body half-way between the PLO Executive Committee and the 390-strong parliament-in-exile, is not empowered to make far-reaching decisions.

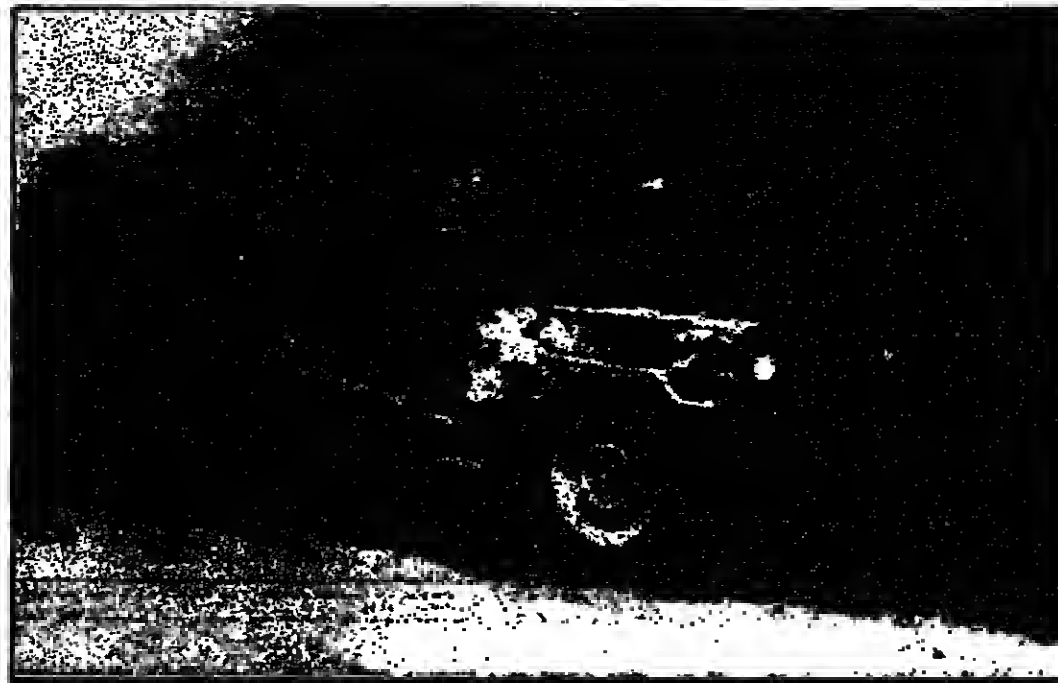
The meeting, which started Wednesday, is expected to launch an appeal for Palestinian unity and reflect a consensus among the various components of the umbrella organisation that the PLO's independence of decision must be maintained, the sources said.

### Bekaa tense

Meanwhile, tension gripped Lebanon's Bekaa Valley town Wednesday after fierce clashes between Palestinian guerrilla groups with the Lebanese army also becoming involved.

Lebanese residents stayed in their homes and Palestinian refugees remained in the Wavell refugee camp after the clashes in which a Lebanese gendarme and a Palestinian refugee were killed.

Tension was high in the camp, after Mr. Arafat said that a new massacre of Palestinians was being prepared.



An Israeli military jeep drives through burning tyres in southern Lebanon Tuesday during protests staged by Lebanese Falangist forces who attempted to block roads (A.P. wirephoto)

### Falangist-Israeli confrontation continues

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Predominantly Christian rightists blocked roads in southern Lebanon for the second straight day of protest against Israeli moves to close down a base of right-wing militiamen.

Israeli troops moved into the base, at the village of Kfar Falous east of here, Tuesday but have stopped short of using force to eject the militiamen from their site.

A spokesman for the Falangist-dominated militia known as "the Lebanese Forces" said in Beirut the two sides were continuing talks in the base to break the impasse.

But he said the militiamen would continue to use "passive resistance" to oppose the closure order from their one-time allies.

The Falangists see the Israeli move as aimed at curbing their activities in southern Lebanon. They say the Israelis want to tighten their grip on it before they make a partial pullback from the Beirut outskirts to the south.

The Israeli occupation au-

thorities say the rightist militiamen have broken rules covering their conduct, and Israel Radio reported Tuesday they had caused tension with the majority Shiite Muslims in southern Lebanon.

Businesses were paralysed for several hours Wednesday morning in Sidon, port capital of southern Lebanon, due to road closures by protesting rightist villagers and Israeli forces. High school leaving examinations were cancelled.

In the eastern town of Baalbek, shopkeepers went on strike to protest at Tuesday's shelling of the historic town during inter-Palestinian fighting, state-run Beirut Radio reported.

Two people were killed and about 10 injured in the clash between supporters and opponents of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in his Fateh commando group.

In northern Lebanon, a Lebanese army jeep came under fire early Wednesday morning in the village of Al Birch north of the port of Tripoli, the army said. The soldiers returned the fire but no

casualties were reported. The army did not say who opened fire on the patrol. The area is under the overall control of the Syrian army, but Palestinian and Lebanese armed groups also operate there.

### 1 killed in Tripoli

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — One man was killed and three were wounded when gunmen sprayed automatic fire from a passing car in an area mainly inhabited by Alawite Muslims Wednesday, security sources said.

There was no apparent motive for the shootings and the identity of the gunmen was unknown.

Armed men from rival militias appeared on the streets following the attack shortly before sunset, local residents reported.

Tension between the generally pro-Syrian Alawites and Sunni Muslim groups opposed to the Syrian regime has been high in this northern Lebanese port for some days.

### Arafat appeals for help to end Palestinian killings

PARIS (R) — Yasser Arafat has asked the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the Non-Aligned Movement to intervene to stop the "carnage" against Palestinians in occupied Arab territories. The Algerian news agency APS reported Wednesday from Tunis.

It said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman, whose headquarters is in Tunisia's capital, sent appeals to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, and to Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Parts of the resolution referring to Israel's settlement policy echoed the wording of a draft adopted unanimously by the council on March 1, 1980. But two days later the then Carter administration announced that its positive vote had been a mistake and that the U.S. meant to abstain.

The 13 countries voting for Tuesday night's resolution were Britain, China, France, Guyana, Jordan, Malta, The Netherlands, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Poland, Togo, the Soviet Union and Zimbabwe.

Zaire, which cast the only abstention, is one of the few African countries that has diplomatic relations with Israel.

The resolution was sponsored by 20 Arab states, of which only Jordan is a member of the council. Many of them spoke in the debate, without the right to vote.

Earlier, Britain called on Israel to declare an immediate freeze on its "damaging policy" of establishing settlements in the occupied territories.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation's observer, Zehdi Terzi, speaking after the vote, told the Council that the fact one delegation had voted like the "lone ranger" did not surprise him.

Clovis Maksoud, the Arab League's observer, said he did not want the U.S. veto to be "a rupture in Arab-American communication."

In some ways it might stimulate dialogue, although the Arabs were not sure what the results would be, he said.

OAU chairman. The appeals asked them "to undertake efficacious action to stop the carnage perpetrated against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories," APS said.

His appeals followed a similar message by Mr. Arafat on Saturday to all Arab heads of state.

This, sought their urgent intervention to stop the killings of Palestinians in north Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley and also accused Syrian and Libyan forces of attacking Palestinian guerrilla positions.

According to Libya's official news agency JANA, it denied accusations by the government in Ndjamena that its air force was bombing the Chad town of Faya-Largeau. (Faya-Largeau besieged, page 2)

In a despatch monitored here, the agency said Foreign Liaison Secretary (Foreign Minister) Abdul Aji Obeidi informed the ambassadors of the U.S. Sixth Fleet's presence near Libya and "the open provocations they pose against the Libyan Arab people."

Mr. Obeidi said Libya had called on the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to stop "flagrant U.S. and French intervention" in Chad.

He said Libya was against internationalising the conflict and for "national reconciliation to be reached between the disputing Chadian factions."

In a statement also quoted by JANA the Foreign Liaison Bureau said: "Orders have been given to the Libyan Arab air force to destroy any target that enters the Gulf of Sirte."

U.S. defence officials said Tuesday two U.S. Navy F-14 planes from the Eisenhower had a confrontation with two Libyan jets over the Gulf, which is also known as the Gulf of Sidra.

Mr. Saliba said he had no instructions from Malta on its demand for such a conference and he did not know if Prime Minister Dom Mintoff had returned to his capital from a sailing holiday.

"We can't expect any developments until the prime minister gets actively involved," he said.

Malta is backing its demand by refusing consensus on a final document to end the three-year-old conference on security and cooperation in Europe, after the 34 other participating nations reached full agreement on July 15.

Mr. Saliba said he had no instructions from Malta on its demand for such a conference and he did not know if Prime Minister Dom Mintoff had returned to his capital from a sailing holiday.

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### Fahd's cable stresses Saudi-Jordanian ties

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a cable from King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz in reply to one he had sent to the Saudi leader upon concluding his visit to Saudi Arabia. In his reply cable, King Fahd said the cordiality and hospitality accorded to King Hussein and his delegation were a "manifestation of the

strong bilateral ties, and reflects the affection and brotherly cooperation between the two countries."

King Fahd stressed the need for all Arabs to pursue efforts aimed at bolstering Arab solidarity for serving Arab and Islamic causes and the achievements of their objectives.

### 15 sentenced to hang for Israeli land sales

AMMAN (Petra) — Fifteen citizens from the occupied West Bank have been sentenced by the special court to death by hanging and another to be imprisoned for selling property to Israelis.

Those sentenced to death by hanging in absentia were: Rashid Balieh, Mahmoud Hanabieh, Hassan Bashir, Dhib Othman, Mohammad Abu Zahideh, Hassan Abu Zahideh, Majed Abdul Karim, Kohammad Odeh, Ahmad Awad Farid Balieh, Mufid Abdul Hafez Abdul Vladanieh, Mohammad Da'as, Hassan Jum'a all from Nablus governorate, in addition to Salem Hamamdeh and Yusef Al Sheikh from the Jerusalem area.

The court has also confiscated all their property and ruled the sale transaction null and void.

The court also acquitted Abdul Karim Abu Shaar and Subhi Abdul Razzak Abdul Salam Eid and sentenced Abdul Wahhab Qasem from Amman to 20 years imprisonment with hard labour for similar offences. The latter's movable and immovable property will be confiscated.

The cabinet Wednesday endorsed the sentences.

### McFarlane holds talks with Israeli ministers

TEL AVIV (R) — New U.S. special envoy Robert McFarlane held talks with Israeli leaders Wednesday as tension rose again along the Israeli-Syrian front line in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

Mr. McFarlane, who arrived here from Beirut Tuesday, is trying to find a formula for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon.

After a two-month hiatus, the Israelis have reported an outbreak of small clashes in the Bekaa Valley. The army said an officer died Wednesday after being hit by Syrian gunfire Tuesday.

He was the first Israeli killed in action against the Syrians since last September and the army responded by pounding nearby Syrian positions with tank and artillery fire Tuesday.

Mr. McFarlane, on his first Middle East tour since being appointed Philip Habib's successor,

Wednesday met Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens. He is scheduled to visit Damascus later this week.

Under last May's agreement with Lebanon, Israel undertook to withdraw its troops in Lebanon on condition Palestinian and Syrian forces leave. Damascus has so far refused to pull out saying that the agreement violates Lebanon's sovereignty and threatens Lebanese and Syrian security.

A senior Israeli official told reporters Mr. Shamir urged the immediate ratification of the U.S.-sponsored Israeli-Lebanon pact during his meeting with Mr. McFarlane.

Israel believes parts of the agreement can be implemented without waiting for foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon, the official told reporters.

### Chad accuses Libyans of 'deliberate genocide'

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Chad charged Wednesday it was the victim of "deliberate genocide" by Libya which was continuing massive bombing of the northern town of Faya-Largeau.

Addressing an urgent meeting of the Security Council, Chad Ambassador Ramadan Barma said the town had been subjected to daily air attacks since last Saturday, when it was recaptured from Libyan-backed rebels.

"This is deliberate genocide, against the martyred people of Chad, who only ask to live in peace... with all the brotherly and neighbouring peoples, including the Libyan people," he said.

The systematic bombardment was still continuing, carried out by Libyan MiG 21s and 23s, he said.

The statement did not refer directly to the reported air incident but denied what it said were Pentagon assertions that the Eisenhower was already patrolling in the Gulf.

It added: "The Eisenhower is approaching the Gulf of Sirte, and if it enters the Gulf, it will be confronted because the Gulf is an integral part of Libyan territorial waters."

The U.S. considers the Gulf as international water and regularly sends naval patrols there.

### Craxi ready to announce 5-party Italian coalition

ROME (R) — Italy's Socialist prime minister designate, Bettino Craxi, was expected to announce his readiness to form a five-party coalition government later Wednesday or early Thursday.

Mr. Craxi told reporters after consulting party colleagues he was awaiting the outcome of a meeting of Christian Democrat leaders before deciding when to present President Sandro Pertini with his cabinet.

All the parties have now formally accepted Mr. Craxi's government programme except the Christian Democrats who have

also still to ratify a list of cabinet members drawn up by Mr. Craxi and his advisers, political sources said.

The Christian Democrats will be the dominant factor in the prospective coalition which will also include Republicans, Liberals and Social Democrats as well as Mr. Craxi's Socialist Party.

The Christian Democrats are expected to hold 15 out of the 28 ministerial posts and have been assured the treasury, interior and foreign ministries, the sources said.

### Malta sticks to its tough stand at security meeting

MADRID (R) — Positions are frozen at the European security conference here and Malta has no proposals to end its three-week-old filibuster in demand of an international conference on Mediterranean security, Maltese Ambassador Evarist Saliba said Wednesday.

He told Reuters he had no new instructions from Malta on its demand for such a conference and he did not know if Prime Minister Dom Mintoff had returned to his capital from a sailing holiday.

"We can't expect any developments until the prime minister gets actively involved," he said.

Malta is backing its demand by refusing consensus on a final document to end the three-year-old conference on security and cooperation in Europe, after the 34 other participating nations reached full agreement on July 15.

Mr. Saliba said he had no instructions from Malta on its demand for such a conference and he did not know if Prime Minister Dom Mintoff had returned to his capital from a sailing holiday.

"We can't expect any developments until the prime minister gets actively involved," he said.







## Journalist Association vote details announced

AMMAN (Petra) — Only Jordanians have the right to take part in the Journalist Association elections which are due to take place on Aug. 19, according to Mr. Ahmad Al-Azom, director of the Press and Publications Department of the Ministry of Information.

He said that active Jordanian journalists who have paid up their subscription fees can vote and stand for election to the association's board. The association's general assembly will convene at the Professional Association Complex on Aug. 19 to elect a new chairman and board members and to hear a report on the association's budget and the activities of the executive committee. Mr. Al-Azom said.

He added that nominations for the post of board chairman and open place members will open 15 days before the election and will be ended three days before.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Passport issue statistics released

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Passport Department over the past month has collected JD 264,666 in fees for issuing passports to Jordanian citizens, according to a report in Al Ra'i newspaper quoting the Passport Department Director Mohammad Al Qudah. He said that the department issued 11,340 permanent passports, 2,988 temporary passports for citizens visiting relatives in the occupied Arab territory, 778 passports for Gaza inhabitants and 702 passports for Muslim pilgrims wishing to visit Saudi Arabia.

### Festival director to brief press

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Jerash Festival Dr. Mazen Al Armouti will hold a press conference Thursday to explain the final preparations being made for the festival. Dr. Armouti is expected to brief the press on arrangements which have been made to receive invited Arab and foreign journalists who will cover the festival.

### Alia eighth most profitable

AMMAN (J.T.) — Air Transport World, the American monthly magazine, published a list of the world's top profitable airlines of 1982 in its May 1983 issue. Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, came number eight in the list, after seven more profitable airlines, namely: Thai International, USAIR, Air India, SAS, All Nippon, Southwest and Republic.

### U of J to take 551 foreign students

AMMAN (J.T.) — A statistical bulletin issued by the University of Jordan indicated that at least 551 non-Jordanian students had been enrolled for the 1982-83 academic year. It said that out of these, 516 students are from Arab countries. Non-Arab students will arrive from Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, Turkey, Britain, Bulgaria, Brazil, the Philippines, India, Venezuela, Thailand and North America. The largest number of non-Jordanian Arab students is 143 from Iraq, the bulletin said.

### Rawabdeh to attend Tunis meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a two-day meeting of the Arab Chiefs of State's foreign relations committee which is due to open in Tunis Friday. Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh will attend the meeting which will receive a report by the organisation's secretary-general on the organisation's seventh conference, and discuss relations with parallel international groupings abroad in addition to the coordination of information with the Arab League.

### Executive seminar comes to close

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-week seminar on accountancy, and financial and administrative affairs for company executives ended at the Institute of Public Administration Wednesday. Eighteen executive directors of private companies who attended the seminar were lectured on modern methods of planning, decision-making and other related topics that are connected with the management of industrial organisations and companies.



Secretary-General of the Ministry of Education Abdul Latif Arabiyat Wednesday chairs a meeting to discuss admissions regulations relating to Jordan's secondary school sector (Petra photo)

## Education Ministry discusses schools admissions

AMMAN (Petra) — Regulations set by the Ministry of Education for the acceptance of students into the secondary school stage of education were discussed at a meeting held at the Sukaina Binti Al Hussein Girls' School in Amman Wednesday.

Directors of education at the Ministry of Education attended the meeting which was held under the chairmanship of the ministry's Secretary-General Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

## Amman rally expresses solidarity with Arabs in occupied territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — A public rally was held at the Professional Association Complex Wednesday evening to express support for the steadfastness of the Arab population under Israeli rule.

Speakers condemned the recent Zionist attack on the Islamic College in Hebron that resulted in the death of three students and the wounding of 40 others.

"The solidarity displayed by

other occupied Arab towns and villages with Hebron and its people serves as a lesson to all other Arabs to unite and join ranks to confront the common enemy," the speakers said.

They also voiced support for the legitimate leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) under Yasser Arafat. "The Palestinians want to have one leadership and united of ranks, and

they want to cooperate with Arab countries in liberate their usurped territory," the speakers said.

The speakers, who included heads of Jordanian trade unions, religious representatives and key figures, expressed hope that the Palestine Central Council meeting in Tunis, which opened Wednesday will yield fruitful results and help reunite all PLO groups.

## Civil Defence appeals to prevent fire risk

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department Wednesday issued an appeal to the public to respect forests, parks and farms and safeguard the environment while on picnics on day outings. The public must help preserve the beauty of the countryside by protecting not harming vegetation.

the statement said.

It called on week and holiday-makers to stop making fires and throwing away cigarette ends so as to avoid the danger of fire or damage. Ready prepared food is most suitable on such outings, the department said.

Also in the statement the department warned the public against swimming in lakes and dams because it said they are filled with sediment and mud which could precipitate drowning.

## Applications in Irbid top 6,500

IRBID (J.T.) — A total of 6,500 applications have so far been sent through the Irbid post office to the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University, according to post office sources here. The post office received JD 32,500 in initial registration fees which are being forwarded to the two universities.

The post offices here are staying open between eight in the morning and eight in the evening to process the applications and dispatch them to the respective universities, the sources said. All applications for enrolment at the universities in Jordan should be channelled through the post offices, in accordance with instructions by the Ministry of Communications.

## Handicapped team returns

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian handicapped sports team returned to Amman Wednesday at the end of a visit to Britain which lasted two weeks.

The team members took part in sports events and won three silver and one bronze medal in tennis and weight lifting.

It was the second time a Jordanian handicapped team had participated in an international tournament.

The team was met upon returning to Amman by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, president of the Jordanian handicapped sports federation, who

welcomed the team home and congratulated its members on their achievements.

## Dress-making centre opens

VADABA (Petra) — A dress-making centre was opened at Vleith village in Vadaba District Governorate Wednesday.

Vadaba Social Development Office Director Adel Hijazeen, who opened the centre, said that it was designed to develop the local community.

The new centre can accommodate 35 female trainees.

## WHO specialist arrives to combat skin disease

AMMAN (J.T.) — A British medical specialist from the World Health Organisation (WHO) is in Amman to help the Ministry of Health research the causes and cure of "Cutaneous Leishmaniasis" a skin disease that is transferred to human beings from animals.

A Health Ministry spokesman said that Dr. R.W. Ashford will help in efforts aimed at the elimination of the disease, several cases of which have been diagnosed in the country.

The Health Ministry had earlier set up a special committee to discover the causes and sources of the

disease which is transferred to humans through flies and is common in the Middle East region.

The disease causes pustules and then heals leaving scars on the skin of the patient, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile Health Ministry Under-Secretary Suleiman Al Suheili opened Wednesday a

week-long training course on ways of combating diarrhoea and treating its victims at Al Bashir Hospital in Amman.

Special oral medications can compensate for the loss of salt and liquids, and is particularly effective in the treatment of diarrhoea cases, Dr. Subeili said.

Two WHO specialists arrived in Amman Tuesday to deliver lectures at the training course. The Health Ministry will hold a similar course at Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid after the conclusion of the Amman course.

## SSC collection hits JD 60m mark

AMMAN (Petra) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) has to date collected JD 60 million in premiums from Jordanians and other nationals covered by the SSC law, according to SSC Director-General Farhi Obaid.

He said that the money collected from the 177,000 employees covered by the scheme is being invested in development

projects in accordance with an investment policy drawn up by the SSC's board of directors.

Mr. Obaid was addressing 58 officials employed by organisations and companies included in the SSC who act as liaison officers. Most of the funds are invested in housing projects thus helping the country implement its

current five-year development plan, Mr. Obaid said.

So far a total of 177,000 employees are covered by the SSC, but it is hoped that the number will increase to 250,000 by 1985, Mr. Obaid added. He praised the role of the liaison officers for coordinating cooperation between the SSC and their own organisations.



Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Al Momani (far left) meets local officials Tuesday during a visit in the north of the country (Petra photo)

## Momani to aid new projects in north

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Al Momani Tuesday paid a visit to a number of towns in the north of the country and discussed with officials there water supply problems and the expansion of municipal services.

Mr. Momani said at a meeting held at Ramtha that his ministry would support all development projects planned by local councils and called on local government departments to work more closely with the councils in order to improve the quality of services in this area.

At the meeting, which was attended by Ramtha Mayor Mohammad Al Bashabsheh and other local officials, Mr. Momani reviewed projects to be implemented by municipal and village councils in the Ramtha Governorate.

"The Housing Corporation is planning to build a second housing estate in Ramtha on a 120-dunum site east of the city, and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment is to establish additional village councils through which the ministry will channel further financial assistance," the minister said.

Starting Saturday, the minister said, Ramtha will start receiving 1,500 cubic metres of water a day, double the existing level.

During the meeting, the mayor of Ramtha briefed the meeting on his municipality's achievements, and submitted requests for the establishment of a municipal council of law and for funds to expand the southern perimeters of the town.

Afterwards, the minister and his aides toured the villages of Turrah, Shajara, Amraweh and Thuneibeh and talked to local officials about public services in their region.

## Survey team makes important finds in the south-west of the country

By Rami G. Khouri  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The land of Jordan today includes large stretches that appear rarely to have been inhabited or exploited by human beings. But archaeological surveys throughout the country are showing time and time again that the barren stretches of modern Jordan were often occupied for long periods of time in antiquity. This has been demonstrated yet again this year by a small team of archaeologists who have conducted a survey of a remote area of south-western Jordan, under the leadership of a West German professor.

Dr. Udo Worschech, professor of Old Testament languages at the Marienhöhe Theological Seminary, Darmstadt, West Germany, has recently completed a brief, three-week survey of the north-western slopes of the Moab plateau, the area between the Wadi Mujib and the Wadi Kerak that slopes down towards the Dead Sea. This region was chosen for an archaeological survey because it had never been properly surveyed, and because its slightly out-of-the-way location, even in antiquity, may have caused it to be used as a transit route, a religious/cultic area or a burial region. Dr. Worschech told the Jordan Times in a recent interview here at the end of his first season of fieldwork.

The only previous work in the area was a walk through the Wadi Jarra in 1851 by a French explorer. The area today is inhabited by some bedouins, but there are no big villages or any obvious signs that would indicate the presence

of a settled community in ancient times. Including the Mujib and Kerak wadis, the survey area has a total of five wadis flowing from the plateau to the Dead Sea, a drop of some 1,300 metres. Only the Wadi Ibn Hamad area is cultivated today by the local bedouins.

The first season's work has turned up several ancient burial sites and the remains of substantial Roman structures.

At least 20 separate stone circles have been identified in the southern part of the survey area, where Dr. Worschech's team worked this year, between the Wadi Kerak and the Wadi Jarra. These are all assumed to be ancient burials.

In one area that must have been an ancient cemetery, the surveyors found about 140 graves or tumuli, or heaps of stones that covered a burial. Some of the stone circles included a single stone in the middle, and other circles were dissected by three stones in the middle. There was a heavy concentration of such burials in the Ghor Haditha area.

These kinds of burials seemed most often to be located on ridges overlooking deep wadis. One of the tombs that was excavated produced only crushed bones, with the exception of one small piece of bone, or perhaps ivory, that was pierced in the centre.

The large cemetery site in the Buleida area had surface pottery sherds from the Chalcolithic and the Early Bronze periods, or some 6500-4000 years ago. There were also some flint tools on the site. About 350 metres north of the cemetery, the ground was covered in more stone tools, particularly scrapers, handaxes and blades that

appear to be from the Acheulian period, of about 110,000 years ago. Some of the stone tools also date from the Chalcolithic/Early

Bronze period. Pieces of a stone bowl from the site may be the remains of a stone age grinder.

At another site about two kil-

ometres away from the cemetery, the survey team found the remains of what appear to be four Roman forts or large buildings. The four

are all within one kilometre of each other, and area located in an area around the mouth of the Wadi Kerak. One of these "forts" is still standing to a height of two metres, with a well preserved door and lintel.

In another area, the team found a string of six Roman towers constructed from black basalt rock. These stand virtually in a straight line, along the slopes off the Wadi Ibn Hamad, and each within about 500 metres of the other. They are just south of the village of Sirfa, where there are remains of an ancient quarry, cistern, winepress and a one-metre-wide Roman wall.

In the eastern part of the Wadi Ibn Hamad, the team found very few stone circles or tombs. Dr. Worschech said, but immediately below the string of six Roman towers they found many stone circles and tombs, perhaps indicating that the earlier Chalcolithic/Early Bronze sites were chosen for use again in the Roman period, 3,000-5,000 years later.

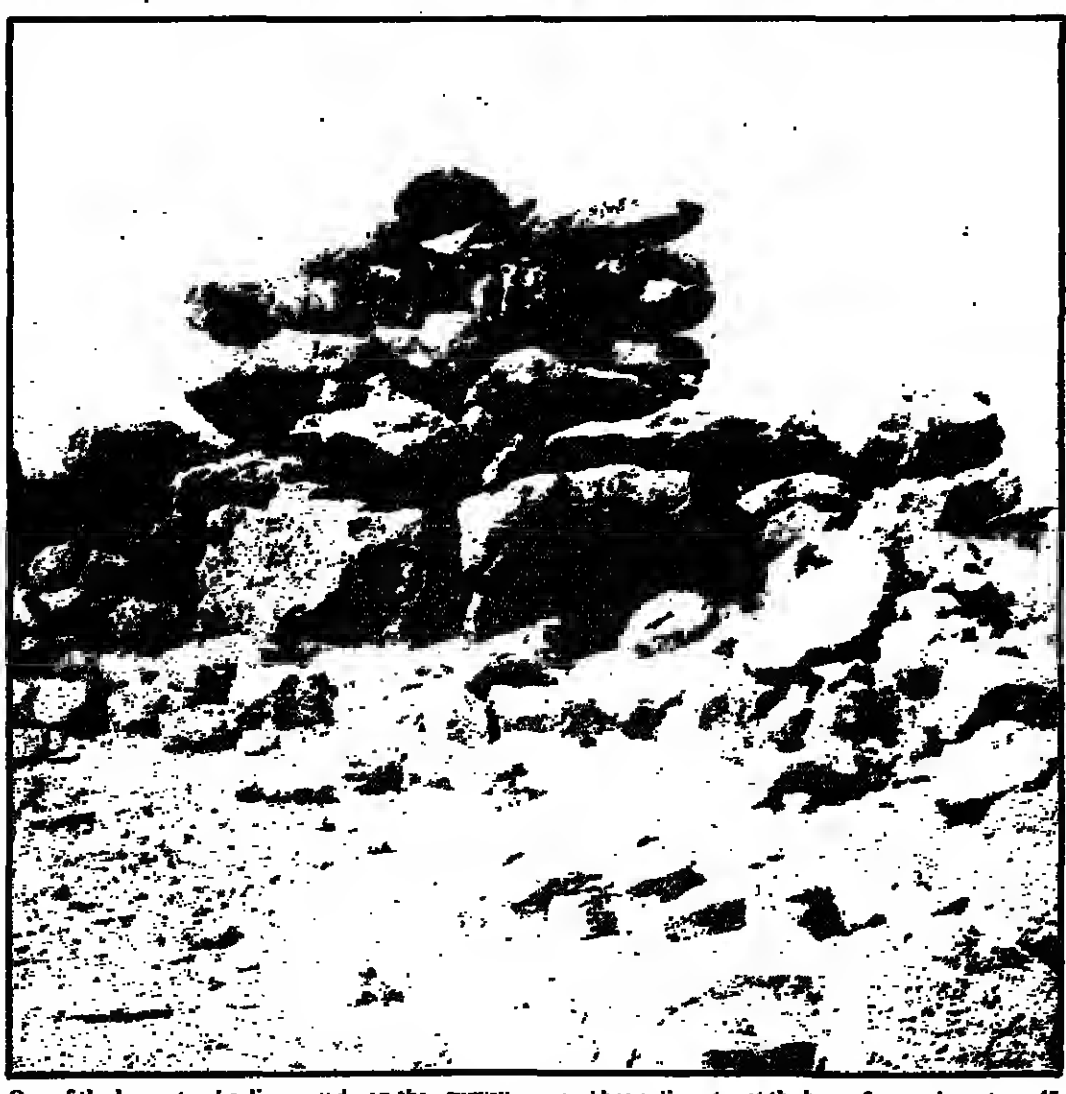
Dr. Worschech pointed out that there seems to be a gap in occupation and use of the area during the Iron Age. "We seem to have almost no Iron Age material, but only Chalcolithic/Early Bronze remains and then Nabataean/Roman remains, with virtually nothing in between," he said.

Dr. Worschech plans to return for another season of surveying, in either 1984 or 1985.

His work is sponsored by the Marienhöhe Theological Seminary and some private donors, and is conducted in cooperation with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, whose representative on the survey this year was Mr. Khaled Abu Ghuneima.



Well preserved wall of a Roman building that measures about 15m. x 20m., located on a plateau overlooking the Wadi Ibn Hamad



One of the large tombs discovered on the survey of the north-west slopes of the Moab Plain. This tomb, near Ghor Haditha, measures 2.2 metres high

and has a diameter at the base of some six metres. 45 other tombs were discovered in the same area.



**Jordan Times**

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## Worst yet to come

SHORT of declaring an Arab economic and political boycott against the United States, following its veto Tuesday of the U.N. Security Council draft resolution condemning Jewish attacks against West Bank Palestinians and Israel's continued drive to colonise what is left of the occupied Arab territories, the Arab states should at least have the dignity to tell the Americans that they can no longer be in a position to act as honest mediators in the Middle East.

Not that Washington was ever expected to be an impartial force in the Arab-Israeli conflict, nor that any American administration was one iota less prejudiced than its predecessor, until this day, when it came to dealing with Arab rights in Palestine or elsewhere. It is America's total submission to the Israeli will, of which the American veto of Tuesday is the latest evidence, that makes us so sure of U.S. hostility, if not actually enmity, towards the Palestinian people and the Arab Nation, which makes it absolutely necessary for the Arabs to give up all hope in sincere American efforts for peace in this region.

Every argument, even word, uttered by Charles Lichenstein, the U.S. representative to the Security Council during Tuesday's debate, against the U.N. draft resolution was either partial or false—and his government knows it.

Just how is it possible to believe the Americans when Lichenstein says that his government opposed the U.N. draft because it did not "adequately address the recent series of criminal attacks in the West Bank, where a Jewish settler was also killed last month in Hebron"? Does he mean that, as far as the U.S. is concerned, there is no difference between the Israeli occupiers and the Palestinians who are under occupation? That, according to the U.S. constitution and American perceptions of international laws, killing in self-defence is as criminal as genocide? That, in the eyes of American justice, fully armed and blood-thirsty Jewish settlers in Hebron can roam the streets of the city freely and harass the inhabitants the way they like, when all that Arabs can do is flee in fear and fright?

How is it possible to believe the U.S. contention that it did not vote against the U.N. resolution because it approved of Israel's settlement policies, when in fact not one settlement could have been built in the occupied Arab territories without American money, moral support and direct encouragement?

How is it possible to put trust in the Americans when their representative at the U.N. contends that in the Arab-sponsored draft resolution to the Security Council there is an obvious flaw which implies that Israel had carried out forcible transfers of Arab population from the occupied territories? Perhaps, although we doubt it, Lichenstein himself does not know, but that his government should tell him, about Israel's latest plan to move en masse all Palestinian refugees from their camps in the West Bank and Gaza to the Jordan Valley, just five kilometres away from this side of the river, in preparation for their full expulsion from Palestine.

Lichenstein and his government also ought to understand, if they do not already, that by moving extremist and fully armed Jewish settlers into the heart of populated Arab areas in West Bank cities and towns, Israel no doubt means to force out the Arab population and drive them away from their homes and land.

As to the debate over whether the settlements were "illegal" or just "unhelpful" in peace in the Middle East, the Americans should know better than what they elect to say on the subject, especially at the U.N. Surely, they remember the unimpeachable death of the Reagan proposals and why and how it all happened.

In whatever case, and judging by the American veto on Tuesday, the U.S. anti-Arab policies in the Middle East are unlikely to change so long as the Arabs themselves are not willing to recognise the danger and act swiftly to put an end to it, be that as it may through adopting certain retaliatory measures against the USA. Failing that, the next Israeli step of full annexation of the West Bank might not be as "unhelpful" to the U.S. as Israel's present settlement drive.

Beware, America's worst is yet to come.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

#### Al Ra'i: PCC can end bloodshed

THE PALESTINE Central Council meeting opens in Tunis Wednesday. This council represents a wide base of Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied Arab lands. Of course the split within Fatah will be the only subject before the council because it is the first and most important topic for any Arab citizen at the moment due to the effect it is having on the Arab Nation's common cause. The Tunis meeting was difficult to arrange, there are positive indicators that its results will be constructive because all the relevant parties will be represented. For these parties to sit at the same table after months of fighting is an achievement in itself, but the important thing now is to allow each party to air its views.

If all present adopt an attitude of good will and have the common interest in view, then the PCC members should have no difficulty in defining the bone of contention and producing an answer to the problem. They have to determine whether the PLO's internal disputes are merely internal affairs or whether other external parties are involved, and bear much of the responsibility for the fighting in Beirut. Arriving at an answer to this question and defining the cause of dispute is a prerequisite in the healing of the rift and an end to bloodshed.

#### Al Dstour: Palestinians must decide

THE PALESTINE Central Council (PCC) is due to convene in Tunis Wednesday. Its meeting comes amid extremely difficult circumstances which increase the responsibilities of the council members. Their meeting, after a long absence, come in response to pressing issues. Last moving events and the armed conflict within Fatah. The council is one of the PLO's legislative bodies and the representation in the council of various PLO groups reflects its democratic hierarchy. We have no doubt that the groups represented at the council will be able to reach agreement to end their differences and stop the bloodshed. The council meeting presents to the fighters with the best forum for discussing their differences and finding a means to stem the dissent.

The Palestinians and the Arabs at large have the right to demand that the council to declare its decisions which should then be respected by all parties. At the same time, we demand that all parties engaged in fomenting the dissension behind the scenes should let well alone and allow the Palestinians to decide on their own problems by themselves.

#### Sawt Al Shaab: Different face, same policy

IS THERE anything new in Washington's policy in the Middle East? Can the appointment of a new U.S. Middle East envoy represent any change in the American administration's policies? It seems to us that the replacements of envoys are all the Americans can do. Any success or failure shown by an envoy is directly attributable to the limp American policy, a policy that has not changed course and continues to be biased towards Israel. This policy is coordinated with Israeli interests and to serve their purpose at the expense of the Arab Nation. Therefore, the substitution of envoys has nothing to do with the Middle East problems since America's policy remains unchanged. In fact there is no American policy toward this region, it is void and represents no more than empty promises dressed up in a facade of lip service.



## Pentagon 'muscle show' heads for C. America

By Robert Trautman

Reuter

WASHINGTON — By sending a naval armada and thousands of soldiers to mass in and around Central America in coming months, the United States is giving a fresh reminder that it mounts war games as much to flex muscles as to train troops.

Pentagon officials readily acknowledge that the Central American exercises are to show U.S. muscle to the Soviet Union and Cuba as well as Nicaragua, all of whom Washington accuses of supplying arms and other aid to left-wing guerrillas in El Salvador.

They stress that while no naval blockade or quarantine is planned, the ability to mount one will be implicit in the number of ships being assigned to the region.

Before the Central American exercises are over in January, at least two aircraft carriers with 141 planes and a battleship with 16-inch guns and modern missile batteries will have trained off the coast of Nicaragua.

Also before the exercises end, some 4,000 U.S. ground troops will have joined Honduran forces in joint manoeuvres, including an amphibious landing.

U.S. officials said the aim of this exercise, and some 1,000 other major joint exercises staged by the United States and its friends every year, is to train soldiers, sailors and airmen.

But there are other reasons as well, they add. While stopping short of labelling manoeuvres held near hostile countries as gunboat diplomacy or sabre-rattling, they concede that they do show enemies that the United States can easily project its military clout into areas considered vital.

Military analysts say recent U.S. manoeuvres in the Mediterranean and the Middle East have also been as much for muscle flexing as

for troop training.

The United States has long used military exercises to project its power far from home, but the analysts say this had become more commonplace in recent years.

President Jimmy Carter staged a series of manoeuvres in the Caribbean in 1979 in response to the discovery of a Soviet combat unit in Cuba.

The exercises included a marine amphibious landing at Guantanamo Bay, a bit of Cuban land and the United States has long leased a Caribbean naval base despite the opposition of Cuba's present leaders.

The stated purpose of that exercise was troop training, but the effect of a marine landing could not be lost on Cuban President Fidel Castro, officials said.

More recent exercises include one staged in Egypt after the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981. Officials readily admit the exercise, code-named "Bright Star", was designed to discourage Egypt's enemies from taking advantage of Mr. Sadat's death and encourage an orderly transition in leadership.

It had been planned before the assassination but was expanded and finally included mock air strikes by B-52s flying from bases in the United States and the dispatch of AWACS (Airborne Warning And Control Systems) aircraft.

There have since been other joint manoeuvres with Egyptian troops and with forces of other nations in the region — Sudan, Somalia and Oman.

These exercises have used troops of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force, now called the Central Command, formed by President Carter to protect Western interests in the stability of oil-producing Southwest Asia.

Analysts say exercises by the

Central Command, four of which are set for this summer, are by their very nature warnings to the Soviet Union to stay away from the region.

Earlier this year, when Libya was believed to be threatening Sudan, the U.S. nuclear-powered carrier Nimitz was ordered to waters off the Egyptian and Libyan coasts and four AWACS planes were sent to Egypt.

It was all explained officially as routine ship and plane movements, but the quick deployment of the Nimitz with its 41 planes and the AWACS radar planes was undoubtedly noted by the Libyan leader, Col. Muammar Qadhafi, defence sources said.

The muscle-flexing intent of the exercises off Nicaragua and in Honduras became apparent in recent days. Normally such exercises are planned many months in advance, especially those involving ships, which have deployment schedules laid out as much as six months in advance.

But a senior defence official briefing reporters on the exercises, while fairly firm on the number of troops to be used, said the actual units had not yet been chosen nor had many of the specific manoeuvres been set.

Moreover, one of the aircraft carriers scheduled to participate, the Ranger, was diverted in mid-sea from its course to the far east and sent to the eastern Pacific. It is now in position about 100 miles off Honduras.

The other carrier to take part in exercises, The Coral Sea, is in the Mediterranean and will steam to the Caribbean later this year, as will the battleship New Jersey after it completes its Far East shakedown cruise.

The World-War-II battleship was recently pulled out of mothballs and modernised with new weaponry and armour.

BECAUSE I HELPED INSTALL THE PINK-SHIRT POLICE IN MEXICO



PEOPLE QUESTION MY COMMITMENT TO FOSTERING FREEDOM IN LATIN AMERICA



BUT LET'S LOOK AT THE FACTS — IF IT WEREN'T FOR PINOCHET...



CHILE'S STREETS WOULDN'T BE FULL OF PEOPLE DEMANDING DEMOCRACY



## 'Contadora' efforts sunk in U.S. foam

By Bernd Debusman

Reuter

MEXICO CITY — Central America seems headed for more bloodshed despite urgent efforts to solve by negotiation the conflicts of this region of 20 million people and seven countries.

After another peace attempt by Latin American foreign ministers failed, Latin American and European diplomats said most signs point to sharpened confrontation. There was little optimism for an early end to the conflicts that killed one civilian every hour last year.

The latest meeting of the "Contadora group" — Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, Colombia — with foreign ministers of five Central American states ended in Panama City with a communiqué which said little more than that they would try again in August.

It was their seventh attempt this year to work out a peace formula that could bridge the gulf between left-wing Nicaragua and the conservative states allied with the United States.

Their efforts are being overshadowed by the biggest military build-up ever seen in Central America, as the United States dispatches three naval task forces with at least two aircraft carriers and 140 planes to Central America's coasts.

The United States and its closest regional ally Honduras begin six-month naval manoeuvres in August, the biggest ever staged in the region. Up to 4,000 U.S. troops will take part.

Some 16,000 troops and insurgents are estimated to be in position on both sides of the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, a focal point of tension since U.S.-backed rebels began large-scale operations against Nicaragua early this year.

Washington asserts that Nicaragua is trying to export left-wing revolution to the rest of Central America on behalf of Cuba and the Soviet Union.

While the Latin American foreign ministers talked peace, fighting continued in another Central American conflict — El Salvador's civil war between left-wing guerrillas and an army trained, advised and armed by the United States.

And in Guatemala, left-wing guerrillas have stepped up operations after a lull of several months in their war against the military government of General Efraim Rios Montt.

Guatemalan guerrillas have been fighting a succession of military governments for more than two decades and diplomatic analysts say that of all the problems in the region, the Guatemala conflict offers the least hope for a negotiated end.

The Contadora group, named after the island where it first met, has been pushing a peace plan that involves the withdrawal of foreign military advisers, the removal of foreign military bases and an end to arms shipments to the region.

On July 19, fourth anniversary of the civil war victory over U.S.-backed Dictator Anastasio Somoza, the Nicaraguan leadership issued a six-point peace plan of its own which coincided with the main points advocated by the Contadora group and the U.S.

It included a call for an end to all foreign military support for Central America through arms supplies, military training and the use of territory to launch military operations.

In a major concession to the U.S. and its conservative friends, the Nicaraguans also dropped their insistence on separate face-to-face talks with Washington and Honduras, accepting instead regional peace talks.

The U.S. promptly complained that there were no specific provisions for verification and President Reagan said he thought any settlement would be "extremely difficult" as long as the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) remained in power in Nicaragua.

## Peking modernises its army

By Eric Hall

Reuter

PEKING — China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) will be 56 years old on Monday but it may be an unhappy birthday for some as leading statesman Deng Xiaoping wrestles to reduce the stature of this last stronghold of extreme leftism.

In the past year the armed forces, once the darling and power base of ultra-leftists, have seen their privileged position attacked, their ageing leaders removed, their outdated military philosophy ridiculed and their spending power cut.

Western analysts are split as to how great is the challenge from surviving conservative leftists in the army hierarchy to Mr. Deng's reformist and moderate policies, but they generally agree it is the most serious residual obstacle to his plans.

Despite having resigned from every other major political post in the past three years, Mr. Deng has retained control over the military commissions of both party and state, demonstrating his concern that none of his proteges yet has the authority to bring the generals to heel.

The army's road to leftism began when Chairman Mao Tse-tung forged it into the instrument to achieve a virtual military coup against his political opponents, triggering the 10-year Cultural Revolution in 1966.

Throughout the long and violent ideological campaigns of the turbulent decade, the army was

held up by Chairman Mao's ruling faction as the revolutionary model for the masses to follow.

In exchange for its support, the army avoided much of the extremist attacks on alleged counter-revolutionaries and its officer corps, although divested of the pomp and circumstances of "bourgeois" rank and uniform, gained many privileges.

But with the rise of Mr. Deng's pragmatic moderates, the army has found itself out of step. As rural living standards have risen through Mr. Deng's new economic policies, recruitment has dwindled as young men opt to make their living from the land.

Last year left-leaning Defence Minister Gong Biao was replaced by the more flexible Zhang Aiping. A new chief political commissar, Yu Qiuli, took over from the more conservative Wei Guoqing and ageing navy chief Ye Fei gave way to younger commander Liu Huaqing.

Among China's 11 military regions, the important commands of Chengdu, Nanjing, Wuhan, Canton and Lanzhou all changed hands.

In the same month as Mr. Yu's appointment as commissar, the army newspaper was forced to recant an article stressing class struggle. The incident was seen as a public humiliation of the army's Maoist old guard.

Mr. Deng himself has led the attack, stressing a need for a modernised, regular army — politicised but not political.

He has also decried Chairman Mao's enshrined doctrine of a guerrilla-based "people's war" as

an unrealistic first line of defence against an aggressor armed with devastating modern weapons.

The 4.2 million-strong army is undergoing an intensive re-education campaign. Mr. Yu recently called on the forces to study the recently published works of Mr. Deng, which contain ten sections on building the army.

Emphasis is placed on technically competent and trained officers. The system of promoting straight from the ranks without training has been stopped and the country's military academies have imposed stricter requirements for graduation.

New army heroes are appearing to replace the ideologically pure, but unbelievable, private Lei Feng, who was constantly washing his comrades' socks. A letter in the press from a disillusioned recruit said that when he tried to act like Lei Feng, everybody simply took advantage of him.

The new models are usually young, skilled officers, such as Wu Guangyu, a 43-year-old air force commander and ace pilot.

Mr. Deng's reformers put butler before guns. The army's budget takes a poor fourth place to those of agriculture, industry and science. It stands at 18 billion yuan (\$9 billion) a year, down from 19.4 billion yuan (\$9.7 billion) in 1980.

PLA Chief of Staff Yang Dezhi has sworn to modernise the army but within the budgetary limits. "We will rely mainly on our own efforts to improve our weaponry and equipment while importing advanced technology from other countries," he said.

## Malta firm on Mediterranean peace

By Roger Cohen

Reuter

VALLETTA — Malta's stand on East-West détente reflects the strongly-held views and combative style of Prime Minister Dom Mintoff, who has made peace in the Mediterranean a central theme of his 12-year-old premiership. Mr. Mintoff, 66, has resolutely insisted on the maintenance of Malta's 17-day-old veto at the European security review conference despite rising anger among delegates from other countries in Madrid.

Government officials say Mr. Mintoff, leader of the Maltese Labour Party, is determined to get a commitment to what they call concrete action on Mediterranean security from the conference. "We don't want mere words," one official said.

The signs in Valletta now are that this defiance of the 34 other nations in Madrid by a Mediterranean island state of 321,000 people must be taken seriously because it perfectly mirrors two of Mr. Mintoff's fundamental convictions, the first being that Malta's size should not prevent an assertive foreign policy or lead it to bow to the superpowers.

The second is that Malta, which he has steered to non-alignment and neutrality in the last decade, should be the prime mover in creating the Mediterranean's stability without which he believes talk of European security is meaningless.

Malta's insistence on a follow up conference on Mediterranean security has been firmly rejected by both East and West at the Madrid meeting.

The other 34 states have withdrawn their ambassadors in a clear indication that there is no more room for manoeuvre on the Maltese request.

Diplomats in Malta say this isolation is unlikely to intimidate Mr. Mintoff who has shown that he is prepared to go his own way in shaping the future of this former British colony.

Since becoming prime minister in 1971, he has forced the removal from the island of NATO's former Mediterranean headquarters, eliminated the British military base, signed neutrality accords with the Soviet Union and Italy, and adopted alternating periods of hostility and friendship with Libya.

Although Malta gained independence in 1964, Mr. Mintoff says repeatedly that the country's nationhood dates only from the departure of the last British soldier in 1979.

Mr. Mintoff is a "Mintoffian" more than he is anything else. He pursues his own vision, one Western diplomat commented.

One consistent element in this vision has been that of Malta as the neutral bridge bringing the conflict-torn countries of the Mediterranean towards peaceful cooperation.

At the start of the neutrality agreement signed with Italy in 1981, Malta said it would "contribute to peace and stability in the Mediterranean region by cha-

nging the country's unnatural role of a fortress into a centre of peace and a bridge of friendship between the peoples of Europe and of North Africa."

The widespread anger in Madrid appears unlikely to help Malta, politically or economically.

Up to now, however, in stands at both Helsinki in 1975 and Belgrade in 1977, Mr. Mintoff has always been able to exploit the rule of consensus to get some commitment on the Mediterranean out of the security and cooperation in Europe (CSCE) meetings.

With his hold on the mechanisms of government in Malta apparently complete, he now appears likely to exercise the diplomatic brinkmanship he has used in the past to the absolute limit in Madrid, having rejected a compromise on Friday.

"We examined the compromise for a whole night, at the highest level. But we could not accept something which contained no commitment to action," a foreign ministry official said.

The prevalent word in Valletta now is "action", which officials say must be set in motion on the Mediterranean question in Madrid. They did not elaborate.

It is unclear whether failure to get action — which is almost certain — might prompt Mr. Mintoff to a complete rupture with the CSCE. But although the move is widely regarded as unlikely, the prime minister is clearly not the kind of man who would shrink from it.



# West Bank victims: Poison, panic or plot?

Recent clashes and curfews in the occupied territories, and the PLO's wider problems, have overshadowed the unsolved mystery of the illness that struck down hundreds of West Bank schoolgirls. After four months of research, during which The Middle East consulted leading pathologists and chemical-warfare experts, Political Editor Judith Peters presents our findings in this special investigative report.

Over a period of three weeks in March and April, between 900 and 1,500 people in the West Bank were struck down by a mysterious illness which was first attributed to deliberate poisoning and later to "mass hysteria". Despite on-the-spot investigation, first by local Palestinian health officials and Israeli medical authorities, and later by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and a group of American doctors, it has hitherto proved impossible to draw any clear conclusions about the real cause of the illnesses.

Through a close examination of the evidence and consultations with physicians and chemical-warfare experts, The Middle East has nevertheless been able to establish that a chemical substance, probably hydrogen sulphide, was responsible for at least the first outbreak, at Al-Arabe near Jenin on March 21.

Hydrogen sulphide is more offensive in weak than in strong concentrations. It was used as a gas-warfare agent during the First World War, but did not prove very effective as a weapon. It is also produced environmentally in mines and sewers and as a result of certain chemical processes.

Its presence in Al-Arabe, therefore, could have been from the latrines, or it could have been deliberately put there. Tests conducted by the Israelis three days later were inconclusive, not least because they were made after heavy rains the previous evening had washed away any residues. Tests on the latrines showed hydrogen sulphide levels to be no higher than would be expected.

The deliberate delay in making physical evidence available to independent investigators has made it difficult to refute the Israeli authorities' insistence that the illnesses were either psychological or fabricated.

"In these situations, both clinical and environmental tests need to be done within hours if they are to be useful," one pathologist says. But as Dr. Fathi Arafat, head of the Palestine Red Crescent, points out, "Palestinian doctors who treated the early cases could not carry out the tests required, because their laboratories are not sophisticated enough and the Israeli authorities quickly transferred patients to other hospitals far away".

The Israeli Ministry of Health has been reluctant to publish the results of clinical tests, although some were reported in the press and individual Israeli doctors proved more helpful. After the first

few days, during which the Israeli authorities blamed PLO "terrorists" for the poisonings, investigators and medical workers received very little help from either the West Bank civil administration or the Israeli authorities, which by then had officially accepted the "mass-hysteria" explanations.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) Radio on 30 March quoted "local doctors in Jenin" as a "special team from the Health Ministry" and "the IDF medical corps" as stating that the illness was "not the result of poisoning" but "apparently psychosomatic". An interview with the Israeli Health Ministry's Director-General, Professor Barukh Modan, supported this.

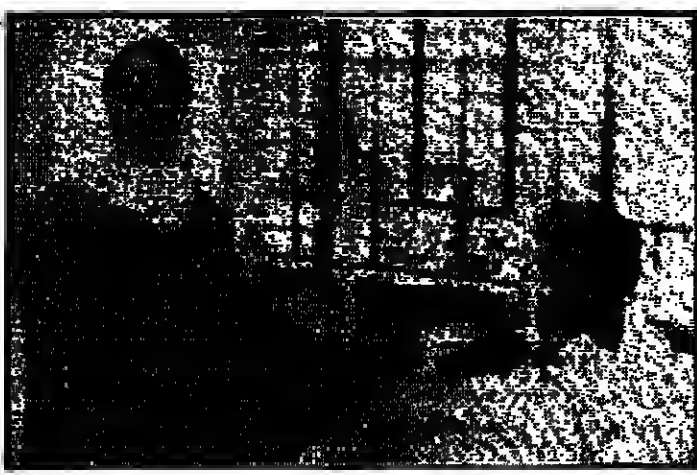
On 4 April Modan quoted an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) official, Dr. Franz Altherr, as saying no poison agents were involved, and that it was "a mass phenomenon with no organic basis". ICRC press official Jean Jacques Kurz, however, said Dr. Altherr was "not satisfied with how he was quoted". He had had a private working discussion with Modan and should not have been quoted at all.

Dr. Altherr's mission had been "to measure the amplitude of the event and decide whether or not to recommend an inquiry". In the event, the ICRC had recommended to Israel that an independent inquiry should be held because the cases reported could not be quickly and conveniently labelled.

By this time, however, the Israeli authorities had decided that the phenomenon was not even mass hysteria but "fabrication". On April 5 the West Bank civil administration said the epidemic had been made up by "political factions" and implied that it would be treated accordingly.

On March 31 Al-Fajr reporter Kaddura Musa had been arrested while trying to investigate the situation and charged with "inciting students to claim they were poisoned". Two CBS photographers filming victims of the illness in a local hospital had their film confiscated on April 5 and were accused of encouraging the patients to "act" for the camera. The following week scores of people were arrested for exhibiting "poison" symptoms. West Bank hospitals were instructed not to receive any more "poisoning" cases and doctors were forbidden to talk to the press.

Eventually, however, under



A Palestinian victim of poisoning being treated at one of the West Bank hospitals (Middle East magazine photo)

heavy international pressure, Israel invited the U.S. Centres for Disease Control (CDC), Atlanta (Georgia), to send an investigation team. It also allowed WHO to do so. Both groups arrived in the first week of April, several days after the last well reported major outbreak of illness.

By this time, no new cases were being admitted to hospitals for fear of arrest, so the last major incident appears to have been on April 3. But, according to Palestinian doctors, cases were still occurring weeks later, both new ones and those with recurrent symptoms from previous attacks. Dr. Fadel Hijazi, Deputy Director of Alia Hospital (Hebron), noted on April 12 that many patients were being treated in their homes. This accounts for the discrepancy in figures when the CDC and WHO gave a total of about 900 cases and local doctors put the final number at about 1,500.

Both the CDC and WHO investigators had to rely on second-hand information given them by Palestinian and Israeli doctors. Interviews with those who had been affected, examinations of patients with prolonged or recurrent symptoms, and some environmental tests. But in general the bulk of clinical and environmental data was second-hand, from West Bank and Israeli hospital records.

## Denying information

Moreover, there is some evidence to suggest that, although the civil administration did not hinder the investigators once they had arrived, it took steps beforehand to deny them access to certain information. On April 5, for example, 24 hours before the CDC team arrived, civil administrator Shlomo Elie ordered the "immediate" transfer of three patients from Hebron to Israel and the transfer or discharge of 40 more, from a total of 76. No explanation was given.

There seems to be general agreement about the pattern of the

cases were the result of poisoning. On March 28, the Jerusalem Post quoted Alim Avni, director of Israel's public health services, as saying that interim tests at Rambam hospital (Haifa), Tel Hashomer hospital and other laboratories "have shown that the substance was definitely inhaled in a vaporous form".

After carefully looking at all the evidence, a consultant pathologist in London told The Middle East that "the characteristic symptoms and signs described in these outbreaks are broadly consistent with poisoning by an asphyxiant or irritant gas or by an amine derivative of benzene". In general, however, she believes the evidence "favours hydrogen sulphide as a trigger cause". This conclusion was also reached by Dr. Obied and some Israeli physicians. Moreover low levels of hydrogen sulphide were detected in the course of environmental tests at Al-Arabe.

The pathologist agrees that there is evidence to suggest that some cases in the later outbreaks were due to anxiety. "It would be surprising if there were no such cases in a mass outbreak," she notes. But this is no reason to put the entire phenomenon down to mass hysteria. The CDC report was "tendentious, evasive and basty at times in leaping to conclusions on evidence it acknowledges is insufficient", she believes.

Many doctors view "hysteria" as a "dustbin diagnosis syndrome". One notes, "Because of the limitations of diagnostic science, there is a tendency to diagnose inexplicable illness as psychological and to look for diagnostic criteria to support this afterwards".

Hysteria is, nevertheless, a recognised phenomenon in psychiatry and sociology. One expert from the London Institute of Psychiatry says it usually involves "a set of non-specific symptoms which elude diagnosis and produce no clear syndrome". Incidents are usually short-lived and tend to occur in situations where rumour can spread, especially in schools, he explains. It is usually the young who are affected and especially females.

"Epidemic hysteria" often appears in the medical literature of the 19th century, but less frequently in more recent times. Canadian psychiatrist Francois Stirois has identified 70 outbreaks between 1876 and 1972, half of which were in schools and most of which affected mainly women and young girls. Stirois classifies the "trigger" events which cause these outbreaks as either "rumour", such as a police scare, or real events, such as floods or nuclear tests. Recent research, however, seems to indicate that the accepted susceptibility of females to "hysteria" may no longer be an

adequate explanation for these occurrences. Some studies now suggest that females are in fact more susceptible to toxicological agents than men, and so may fall victim to "poisoning" more easily. Studies on female rats by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), for example, have found them four times more susceptible to certain insecticides than male rats.

As to the West Bank cases, one medical expert commented that taking the lack of positive clinical evidence, and the fact that mainly females were affected, as proof of hysteria was unsatisfactory. "It is like believing that all cases of seasickness during a journey were due to anxiety because later investigation found that some susceptible members had imagined themselves to be sick, and that tests on the boat two weeks later in port had shown that it was not moving".

Dr. Obied and other doctors who were present during the outbreaks are firmly convinced that the earlier ones, at least, had a physical cause and that the later ones were deliberately provoked using the already heightened sense of panic at the time.

If the substance involved was hydrogen sulphide, the possibility remains that the gas could have seeped from a nearby latrine. But subsequent and repeated environmental tests found no abnormal levels present at that time, which raises the possibility of deliberate dissemination of the substance.

What worries many Palestinian doctors in the West Bank, however, is not so much the physical effect of the poisonings but the possibility that they could create panic and flight.

Attributing the illness to mass hysteria does not in any way minimise the danger it represents, whatever the right explanation. The real cause will probably never be known with any certainty, largely because the Israeli authorities allowed too great a time to elapse before proper investigations were undertaken.

The heavy-handed treatment of those affected, however, and the later dismissal of high-ranking Arab health officials who refused to accept the hysteria explanation suggest that the Israeli authorities may be concealing some evidence. A 1940 British War Office medical manual of chemical warfare lists six objects to be achieved by the use of gas. The last is: "To lower the morale of the civil population and induce a will to compromise or surrender by causing widespread disablement, anxiety and discomfort".

--The Middle East magazine

## Randa Habib's Column

### Beep, beep, make way

Beep, beep, beep, make way it is the wedding convoy that is passing.

Twenty, sometimes 50 cars demand priority noisily. They are happy their son or daughter is getting married therefore we should all bow and pay our respects.

It does not bother them at all that they are creating a traffic jam and a terrible congestion.

Selfishly, they have decided to spread their joy at the expense of your comfort.

— They create noise with their honks.

— They hinder the traffic or block it completely. Well, let us imagine that at the same time a car transporting a sick person is passing by. The result can turn into a real catastrophe.

— They express their joy loudly, singing, clapping hands and sometimes shooting in the air. Let us consider two points: The convoy can pass near houses where there is sorrow and bereavement and in this case this "festival of mirth" would be out of place in that vicinity, and also the shooting, even though directed upwards, can provoke fatal accidents as has already happened many times.

What is the logical explanation for all that?

A wedding is undoubtedly an occasion of happiness and joy. The concerned families have all the reasons on earth to burst with joy but should this be done at the expense of others?

Is it necessary that this happiness becomes public?

The receptions and parties that the families organise for this happy event should be the time when those people express their joy. Let them sing, dance, clap their hands as much as they like. Let them enjoy themselves and make the all noise they want but for heaven's sake let it not be in the street.

## Advances in genetic engineering aid farmers

WASHINGTON — Recent discoveries in the new science of genetic engineering (selective altering of hereditary genes in microorganisms) are expected to help U.S. farmers improve crops and increase food supplies for the world's population.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports the development of the first vaccine produced through gene splicing. It is expected to reduce foot-and-mouth disease. (One of the most serious animal afflictions, foot-and-mouth disease is caused by a highly contagious virus that infects cattle, sheep, pigs and many other animals). The vaccine was produced by U.S. government scientists and researchers of a California genetic engineering firm.

According to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John Block: "This breakthrough can mean annual savings of millions of dollars and an increase in the world's supply of meat".

While outbreaks of the disease have been prevented in the United States since 1929 because of strict U.S. importation and quarantine procedures, foot-and-mouth disease continues to be a serious problem in Asia, Africa, South America and southern Europe.

The new vaccine can be produced in such greater quantities than vaccine now in use, and refrigeration requirements typical of present vaccines have been eliminated. While the new vaccine protects against only one type of the virus, scientists hope it is the first step in the production of a general vaccine applicable for all foot-and-mouth virus strains.

The vaccine, produced from virus protein, induces immunity to the disease in any vaccinated animals (a vaccine is a modified virus of any of various other diseases, used for preventive inoculation). And since only a small portion of the virus is used in the vaccine, there is no danger of the animal actually contracting the illness.

In a related effort, U.S. government scientists have developed a technique that could be a major step toward applying genetic engineering to crop improvement. Experimenters transferred a gene that directs internal plant production of a major seed storage protein from one plant form (French bean seed) to another (sunflower).

U.S. officials called the discovery "the first step toward the day when scientists will be able to increase the nutritive value of plants, to make plants resistant to disease and environmental stresses, and to make them capable of fixing nitrogen from the air".

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# SPORTS

## Defending champion beaten in U.S. tennis championships

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — Unseeded American Jimmy Brown upset defending champion and top seed Jose Higueras of Spain 6-2, 6-2, in the second round of the U.S. clay court championships Tuesday.

The 18-year-old Brown, ranked 77th in the world, used a patient baseline game against an uninspired and uncharacteristically sloppy Higueras, who is ranked world number six. Brown's victory took 21 minutes.

"After the first four or five games he looked tired to me," said Brown, who beat Higueras last year in Venice.

"I decided to just keep it in play and move it around and sometimes he gets a little impatient. It depends on his mood," he said.

Brown broke serve in the opening game and the rest of the set went on serve until the seventh game. Brown broke again for 5-2 and clinched the set on his third set point as Higueras netted an easy backhand.

In the final set, Brown built a

4-1 lead before Higueras briefly rallied to win the next two games.

In the seventh game, Higueras apparently served an ace that would have saved a break point and given him deuce. But Brown argued the call with the umpire, and Higueras, after walking over to look at the mark on the court, sportingly called the serve out.

Brown then won the point and Higueras, going through the motions, hit the ball way out on the next four points to end the match.

"My concentration is very bad. I don't feel very confident," said Higueras, 31, who lost in the semi-finals last week and the quarterfinals the previous week in tournaments in the United States and Switzerland.

In women's second round play top seed Andrea Temesvari of Hungary overcame her own careless play to beat Pilar Vasquez of Peru 6-3, 6-3.

Joining her in the round of 16 were seventh-seeded Carling Bassett of Canada with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Emilise Rapin-Longo of Arg-

entina; 11th seed Milva Jausovec of Yugoslavia with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Pam Casale of the U.S.; and 12th seed Ivanna Madruga-Osses of Argentina with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Gretchen Rush of the U.S.

Tenth-seed Iva Budarova of Czechoslovakia also reached the next round with a 7-5, 6-3 win over Joanne Russell of the U.S.

In other men's second round matches, fourth seed Henrik Sundstrom of Sweden defeated Jaime Velasco of Colombia 6-3, 6-4; fifth-seed Chris Lewis of New Zealand beat Manuel Orantes of Spain 7-6, 7-5; seventh-seed Shlomo Glickstein of Israel defeated Mark Dickson of the U.S. 6-4, 6-3 and 12th seed Corrado Barazzutti of Italy beat Scott Lipton of the U.S. 6-3, 6-2.

In a late match, second-seeded Kathy Rinaldi of the U.S. defeated Annabel Croft of England 5-7, 6-3, 6-3.

Rinaldi, 16, wasted three set points before losing the 11th game. Croft, 17, broke Rinaldi's service in the 11th game and held serve to take the set.

## Soviets reach basketball final with game in hand

SAO PAULO (R) — The Soviet Union underlined their dominance of women's basketball Tuesday night by reaching the finals of the World Championships with a game in hand.

The five-times champions and clear favorites crushed no-hopers Yugoslavia 98-64 (half-time 49-20) for their sixth straight win and a place in Saturday's playoff for the title.

Current champions the United States staked a claim to the other place with an equally emphatic win over home side Brazil by 119-78 (54-37).

China stayed in with a chance by beating South Korea 72-69 in a nerve-wracking encounter which ran over extra time. The Chinese are equal on points with the United States but have only one game to play to the Americans' two.

Both the Soviet Union, who boycotted the last championships in South Korea, and the United

States used Tuesday night's games to give all their players a run.

The Americans faced the added distraction of the usual partisan crowd but tight defence and highly accurate shooting saw them home easily against a Brazilian team relying heavily on the brilliant Hortensia.

Sao Paulo's Ibirapuera stadium resembled the Far East for the China-South Korea clash. The city has large immigrant communities from both countries and noisy delegations turned out to cheer on their teams.

China led 35-31 at halftime but the regulation period expired with the teams locked on 61 points each.

In the five-minute extension China, who lost in extra time to the United States earlier in the competition, edged in front. Top scorer with 26 points was 2.11-metre (six-feet, 11-inches) tall Shen Yuefang.

## Israelis go to Helsinki despite Palestinian participation

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli athletes will compete in next week's World Athletic Championships in Helsinki despite the participation of Palestinian athletes, an Israel Athletic Association (IAA) official said on Tuesday.

Three Israeli athletes will go to Helsinki, IAA Secretary-General Avi Stein told Reuters, while the Kuwait-based Palestine Athletic Association is sending two representatives.

Despite Israeli protests, the Kuwait group was recognised by the International Amateur Athletic Federation in 1981, replacing the Palestine Sports Association based in the Gaza Strip.

## Riviera, home of Hollywood golfers

By David Finch

Reuter

LOS ANGELES — The Riviera Country Club, like the Hollywood stars who dominate its membership, presents a larger-than-life backdrop for this week's U.S. PGA Golf Championship.

Located just off the famed Sunset Boulevard, Riviera winds its way across the floor of the narrow Santa Monica Canyon. Palatial residences of the stars, built in a wide array of architectural styles, peek over the rim of the canyon walls like Baroque Castles.

Riviera was fated to be a pleasure ground for the Hollywood set from the day it was conceived in 1925 as a golfing extension of the Los Angeles Athletic Club.

Money was no object. George Thomas Jr. was lured out of retirement to design the layout on 200 acres of tangled scrubland at the bottom of a ravine and when it opened in 1927 it had cost \$243,827, then a record for a golf course.

As befitted Hollywood, Riviera boasted unique features such as waxy kikuyu grass from East Africa and aromatic Australian Eucalyptus trees with their hanging ribbons of bark.

The first members included Douglas Fairbanks and "Pat" Kirkland, setting a pattern that has continued through the years.

It was at Riviera that Clark

Gable showed that he gave a damn about golf, and Humphrey Bogart would play it again—and again. Other members included Errol Flynn, Gary Cooper, Gregory Peck, Bing Crosby, Victor Mature, Spencer Tracy, Johnny Weissmuller, Fred Astaire, Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce.

Among the current members are Sean Connery, Dean Martin, Mickey Rooney, Glen Campbell and former President Gerald Ford.

Women stars have played here, too, such as Ann Blythe, Olivia de Havilland, Rita Hayworth, Judy Garland and Katharine Hepburn, who needed no stand-in for the golfing scenes that were shot at Riviera for the film "Pat and Mike" about a woman sporting superstar.

Riviera is also inextricably entwined with the career of Ben Hogan, one of the greatest players the game has known. In the space of 18 months from 1947, Hogan won two successive Los Angeles Opens and his first U.S. Open title, bestowing on the course its nickname, "Hogan's Alley."

Two years later, making his comeback after smashing his legs in a car crash, he tied with Sam Snead in the Los Angeles Open but lost the play-off. Finally, Hollywood turned to Riviera again to film Hogan's story in the movie "Follow the Sun."

This year's PGA marks only the

## Bomb-shattered Beirut racecourse to reopen

By Hugh Carney

Reuter

BEIRUT — Thunderous noise and screams will erupt in West Beirut on Sunday as the weary people of the city get a chance to indulge an old passion.

The Beirut racecourse is to reopen for the first time since it was shattered during the Israeli invasion.

The last races at the 65-year-old hippodrome were run on May 31 last year, six days before Israeli forces stormed into Lebanon eventually trapping the Palestinian guerrilla foes in a pumracted and bloody siege of the capital.

A group of guerrillas holed up in the hippodrome. Its elegant Arabic-style buildings and nine-wooded grounds became a key position on the front line and were blasted by countless bombs, shells, rockets and grenades.

But, though many scars remain, racecourse staff have rebuilt the track and patched up the grandstand enough to open again to an expected 3,000 race-made Lebanese.

A tour round the hippodrome with racecourse director Nabil Nasr Allah is a lesson in both the awesome reconstruction problems faced by Beirut people after the war and their remarkable determination to overcome them.

"We found 232 mines altogether," he said, looking out across the 1,200-metre (six-furlong) oval racetrack. "Our men and French soldiers who helped them had to probe the ground with bayonets to find them. Two guys were killed."

The fine, pillared arcades of the old grandstand were completely

flattened in the fighting, the course was pitted with shellholes and hundreds of pine trees were destroyed as the Palestinians hung on to their positions. Nasr Allah said.

"And the Israelis came to the starting line," he added in unwitting but ironic parody of a race commentator.

Apparently, they never reached the winning post, now standing beside new railings in front of portable cabins placed among the ruins to house photo-finish equipment.

Rebuilding a two-storey grandstand will take time, but for now all the rubble has been cleared and racegoers will watch the races from a few temporary seats and a large enclosure.

Not spared the havoc were the stables both at the hippodrome and in nearby stables where about 60 racehorses were killed in the fighting and some 30 more died later, apparently from delayed trauma.

But 600 of the Arab horses survived, fed and watered every day by stable lads who somehow made their way through the battles to look after the animals.

The horses have been back in training since December and Nasr Allah said they showed no after-effects of their ordeal.

There has been racing in Beirut since 1886 and at the hippodrome since 1918, always only by pure-blood Arab horses.

Although it is the only course in the country, the horseracing industry in Lebanon employs 21,000 people directly and indirectly, Nasr Allah said.

"We love horses, especially Arab horses, and gambling is in

our blood," said the Marquis vioussa de Freige, a silver-haired owner, as he sat under a tree by his stables recalling the old days, good and bad.

He spoke sadly of the frequent closures forced by the warring of the past eight years but brightened as he remembered the heyday of the sport during World War Two.

"Those were the great days," he said. "Elegant women in beautiful clothes and thousands of soldiers from the British, Australian, French and South African forces in Lebanon at the time came to the races."

He spoke of thrilling races, with many foreign jockeys, of champagne, wine and beer drunk on race days and of the 1200 mares he used to have for breeding. Now he has none.

But the Marquis looked forward keenly to the coming races, scheduled initially every Sunday until the course can open on Saturdays as well, as it did in the past.

Next Sunday there will be nine races, with prize money up to \$1,000 for a winner. Entrance to the course costs \$2 and bets start at the same minimum level, with bookmakers shouting the odds.

Nasr Allah hopes it will not be long before receipts start edging up towards the 15 million Lebanese pounds (\$3 million) he needs to rebuild the course, two-thirds of which has already been loaned by the Lebanese government.

In the meantime, no special ceremony is planned for the reopening nor have honoured guests been invited. "Where would we put them? There's even a transistor set in the committee room," said the course director.

## British yacht wins semi-final place in America's Cup race

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (R) — Britain's Victory 83 won two races Tuesday and clinched a place in the semi-finals of the trials to decide which yacht will challenge the United States for the America's Cup trophy in September.

But it was the end of the line Tuesday for two of the seven boats from five countries which have been taking part in the trials.

Australia's Advance and the French yacht France 3, which have the worst records, were formally notified by the challengers' race committee that they had been eliminated from the trials.

Victory 83 goes into the semi-finals with Australia's main hope, Australia 11, which at this stage has easily the best record of any of the challengers and was already assured of a place in the next stage of the trials.

The yachts still battling it out for the two remaining semi-final places are Australia's Challenge 12, Italy's Azzurra and the Canadian boat Canada 1.

One of these yachts will be eliminated when the current trial series ends on Thursday. Then the four survivors will have until August 11 to prepare for the semi-finals.

In Wednesday's races Victory 83 defeated Challenge 12 by 27 seconds and Azzurra by one minute and 12 seconds. Australia 11 beat Azzurra by two minutes but was forced to withdraw from a race against Canada 1 because of

an injury to bow man Scott McAllister.

McAllister's left arm was broken as he was attempting to secure the mainsail to the top of the mast between races. He was taken to hospital and syndicate chairman Alan Bond said he probably would not be able to race again this summer.

Australia 11's withdrawal from the race against Canada 1 was good news for the Canadians and bad news for Challenge 12, which had counted on beating Victory 83 and seeing the Canadians lose. Instead Challenge 12 lost a point to the Canadians in their battle for a semi-final place.

Challenge 12 has three races left in the current series against Azzurra, Australia 11 and Canada 1. The Canadians must meet Azzurra, Challenge 12 and Victory 83.

France 3 and Advance had hoped to sail on final race before the elimination notices came, but Advance broke its main halyard before the race could be started and was forced to withdraw, leaving France 3 to sail the course alone.

French syndicate head Yves Roussel-Rouard called France 3's participation a rewarding experience and said he would immediately begin organising a new challenge for 1986.

Advance's project director, Syd Fischer, said that his syndicate and crew had been disappointed with

the performance of Advance from the first race. It was difficult to steer and the speed that designer Alan Payne had hoped to achieve by sacrificing manoeuvrability had not been evident.

"Another aspect of Advance's non-competitiveness," he said, "was the lack of stability which resulted in the yacht being competitive in light winds only."

Fischer said that contrary to some recent press reports there had been sufficient funds to support all facets of the syndicate's operations in Newport. He specifically denied reports that there had not been enough money for cleaning the bottom or furnishing sufficient sails for the boat.

Both yachts suffered from the beginning from not having another boat to tune up against, a point stressed by the French syndicate leader in his statement.

The pairings for Wednesday in the first race are Canada 1 against Victory 83 and Challenge 12 against Azzurra. In the second race Challenge 12 will meet Canada 1 and Australia 11 will meet Victory 83.

The current point standings are: Australia 11, 17.88; Victory 83, 12.44; Azzurra, 11.20; Canada 1, 10.72; Challenge 12, 9.60.

## Iraq to take part in Olympics

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi Olympic Committee (IOC) has decided to participate in the Los Angeles Olympic Games in July 1984, the English daily Baghdad Observer said on Wednesday.

The Iraqi decision, taken at a meeting of the committee on Tuesday, follows Iran's statement that it would not take part in the games in protest against American foreign policies.

## Coe says illness may end career

LONDON (R) — Sebastian Coe, Britain's triple world record holder, said Wednesday the illness that forced him out of next week's World Athletics Championships in Helsinki might end his career.

In an interview published in the London Times, Coe said: "I have got to know before I commit myself again that I can get through a whole season intact."

He also said that he would never race over 800 metres again. "As far as the 800 metres goes, the game is up. Helsinki would have been my swansong," he said, adding: "I have been obliged to walk away from an event which I did not believe I had yet fully explored."

On Monday Coe announced he would not run in the 800 metres in Helsinki because of a lymph gland

infection. Earlier he had withdrawn as a candidate for the 1,500 metres following media criticism of the selection procedure.

Coe, 26, world record holder over 800 metres, 1,000 metres and one mile and the Olympic 1,500 metres champion, will spend two days in hospital this week undergoing tests.

Glandular trouble was also blamed for Coe's defeat by West German Hans-Peter Ferner in last year's 800 metres final at the European Championships in Athens and in the past month he has looked well below his best in suffering four defeats.

"I have got to get to the bottom of this if I am ever to run seriously again," Coe said. "It seems that something is working through my system related to stress. I need the

doctors to tell me why.

"If they can, then hopefully my future is OK. But if not, there is no way I am again going to leave the country next January for three months, give six solid months of my life to running, free of every other consideration, and then find myself on the wrong end of the life cycle of a virus on some particular day in Los Angeles just when I need to be at a peak."

If he did run in next year's summer Olympics in Los Angeles, Coe said it would be either at 1,500 or 5,000 metres. The decision "would all depend on what the specialists have to say, what they consider might be the body's reaction to moving up to the endurance demands of the longer race. We will just have to wait and see."

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**THE Daily Crossword** By N.E. Campbell

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## Oman raises forecast for '83 budget deficit

MUSCAT (R) — Oman's budget deficit is expected to widen to 294.6 million Omani riyals (\$850 million) in 1983 from 221.8 million riyals (\$640 million) in 1982, figures from Oman's central bank show.

The figures suggest a wider 1983 deficit than the 207 million riyal (\$600 million) shortfall forecast in January.

Government spending this year is forecast to rise to 1.55 billion Omani riyals (\$4.48 billion) from 1.36 billion riyals (\$3.93 billion) in 1982.

Revenues are expected to rise less quickly to 1.32 billion riyals (\$3.81 billion) from 1.19 billion riyals (\$3.44 billion).

Oil receipts are still forecast for

1983 at 1.18 billion riyals (\$3.41 billion), unchanged from the earlier forecast, and compare with 1.06 billion riyals (\$3.06 billion) in 1982.

Omani crude oil production, which was running at an average 336,000 barrels daily in 1982 compared with 1981's 328,000 barrels, rose to 370,000 barrels a day for the first three months of this year.

Oman's trade surplus narrowed in 1982 to 440.6 million riyals (\$1.27 billion) from 681.6 million riyals (\$1.97 billion) in 1981.

Its balance of payments surplus also shrank, to 293.3 million riyals (\$848 million) in 1982 from 481 million riyals (\$1.39 billion).

## Drachma move boosts industry

ATHENS (R) — Greece's decision to abandon the policy of keeping the drachma pegged to the dollar after only seven months was welcomed Wednesday by hard-pressed private industry, which saw it as a likely boost for exports.

But opposition conservatives described the move as an admission by the socialist government that the pegging policy, adopted after January's 15.5 per cent all-round devaluation of the drachma, had failed and that its abandonment was overdue.

Economy Minister Gerassimos Arsenis said Tuesday night that the drachma would no longer be held at 84 per dollar, its rate since the devaluation, and that it would instead follow a path closer to European currencies, as happened last year.

Exporters, who had complained that the peg to the powerful dollar was pushing the Greek unit up against West European currencies, said the change should help restore competitiveness.

The currency was little changed Wednesday.

The dollar was fixed slightly lower at 84.73 drachmas against 84.81 Tuesday.

An industry source predicted that the drachma might fall in the coming weeks to over 90 per dollar.

Economists also expect the drachma's upward revaluation in Europe to be eliminated.

In announcing the unpegging of the drachma from the dollar, Economy Minister Arsenis said the United States was following a monetary policy to suit its own domestic interests at the expense of the stability of the international economy.

The dollar has soared on world currency markets in recent weeks on expectations that U.S. interest rates will be driven up by recent rapid monetary growth and heavy government borrowing.

The influential conservative daily Kathimerini commented that "the drachma-dollar link was not based on any purely economic criteria, but was set up for psychological reasons, to give a false impression of the currency's stability."

Former conservative minister Mr. Stavros Dimas called the move "an admission of the failure of the government's currency policy which confirms that its economic predictions were completely wrong."

## Report says Indonesia to remain substantial oil exporter into 1990

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia, forced to delay development projects worth billions of dollars because of lower oil prices, should remain a substantial petroleum exporter well into the next decade, the U.S. embassy said in its annual oil report published Wednesday.

In the long term Indonesia's exportable oil surplus would probably continue to fall off slowly, the report said.

But earlier oil industry forecasts that the country would become a net importer in the next decade now appeared too pessimistic, largely because growth estimates for domestic oil consumption had been revised downwards.

The report said despite the slump in world demand and prices, foreign oil contractors in Indonesia were continuing intensive exploration and development.

More than 40 oil and gas discoveries were made in the past year or so, three of which could result in new areas for commercial exploitation, it added. Additional facilities were being readied for fields discovered earlier.

As a result, Indonesia could easily reach its ceiling of 1.3 million barrels per day (bpd) set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and could increase capacity beyond the current level of 1.6 million bpd, the report said.

Indonesia produced just under seven per cent of OPEC output last year, the same as in 1981, it said. More than half its oil exports went to Japan and a fifth to the United States.

But mainly because of falling oil revenues, Indonesia had a current account deficit of \$6.7 billion in the financial year ending in March compared with a \$2 billion surplus two years earlier, the report said.

The deficit was likely to narrow but remain troublesome in the next two or three years, it added.

However international financial institutions were unanimous in believing Jakarta was managing its debts soundly and that its repayments were affected by declining oil revenue rather than excessive borrowing, the report said.

Earlier this year Indonesia rephased industrial projects worth more than \$5 billion, imposed tough austerity measures and devalued the rupiah by 27.6 per cent to fight deficits.

## Block trip to C. America will focus on economic aid

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block visited El Salvador and Guatemala this week on a trip designed to put the spotlight on President Reagan's plans for providing economic aid to the Central American region.

U.S. officials said Mr. Block would use the occasion to announce more food aid for both countries.

His trip takes place at a time when the president's critics in Congress and elsewhere are expressing concern over his plans for big U.S. military exercises in the

area and questioning his policies aimed at countering leftist insurgency.

Mr. Block was originally scheduled to visit Venezuela, Brazil and Argentina for talks on agricultural trade disputes and technological assistance.

The U.S. officials said the stops in El Salvador and Guatemala were added on orders from the White House, which is trying to focus on Mr. Reagan's economic aid policies for the region and calm public fears about another Vietnam-style military entanglement.

The officials said Mr. Block, who arrives in Guatemala City on Friday, will announce \$7 million in new food aid to Guatemala under a programme that makes surplus U.S. farm products available at long-term, low-interest loans.

They said Guatemala would also get \$50 million in food credit guarantees for the financial year starting on Oct. 1, and the United States would consider donating 10,000 tonnes of surplus American dairy products.

Mr. Block will discuss ways to help modernise the agricultural sectors in El Salvador and Guatemala under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) plan proposed by

Mr. Reagan and approved by Congress last month, the officials said.

The initiative involves lower tariffs for most products shipped from Caribbean countries to the United States as well as more economic assistance and private business investment.

El Salvador's agricultural economy in particular has suffered during the civil war against leftist guerrillas.

The officials said Mr. Block, who flies to San Salvador on Saturday, would announce \$1.8 million more in food aid to El Salvador for this year, \$32 million for next year, and \$25 million in U.S.-guaranteed food credits for next year.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### African states search lakes for oil

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Five East African countries have started to search lakes Victoria, Tanganyika and Albert for oil. Tanzania's ruling party Uhuru newspaper said Wednesday. It said Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Zaire and Burundi had together enlisted Canada's Kenting Earth Services to carry out the search with the help of a \$300,000 loan from the World Bank.

#### Indonesian wood output rises

JAKARTA (OPECNA) — Indonesia's plywood and hardwood output is expected to become the country's chief foreign exchange earner among forestry products under the five-year development plan starting next April. Forestry Minister Sudjarwo said here. Plywood production last year totalled 2.31 million cubic metres, more than double the 1981 figure of 1.01 million. Last year's exports stood at 1.23 million cubic metres with a value of \$282.2 million against 0.25 million cubic metres worth \$55.74 million in 1980. Indonesia currently has 61 plywood factories in operation with a combined capacity of 3.34 million cubic metres, according to the minister.

#### Arco discovers gas off China

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Atlantic Richfield Company (Arco) said Tuesday it had discovered gas in an exploratory well drilled off China to the South China Sea, 100 kilometres southwest of Hainan Island. Arco said the discovery was the first made off China by an American oil company.

#### USSR needs to import U.S. grain

KANSAS CITY (R) — Soviet plans to boost grain production and irrigate more farmland do not mean there will be a cut in U.S. grain imports, Soviet Deputy Trade Representative Vladimir Nazarov said Tuesday. He told reporters at the U.S. feed grains council meeting here that his country would need to import U.S. grain even if the Soviet Union managed to achieve its production target of 252 million tonnes of grain a year by 1990.

#### U.S. oil consumption falls by 18%

WASHINGTON (OPECNA) — During the five-year period 1978-82, annual consumption of crude oil in the United States fell by 18 per cent from 5.6 billion to 4.6 billion barrels, according to a report by the U.S. International Trade Commission. However, due to the rising cost of crude over the period, the value of oil consumed climbed from \$60.5 billion in 1978 to \$135.6 billion in 1982, an increase of 124 per cent. The report stated that while the dollar value of United States' crude imports rose by 42 per cent between 1978 and 1982, the actual volume of imports dropped by 42 per cent. The share of imported oil in total U.S. petroleum consumption dropped from 43 per cent in 1978 to 31 per cent last year.

### LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed firmer with prices edging up after a mixed start, dealers said. Trading was again thin with the continuing U.S. treasury refunding auctions prompting many operators to remain on the sidelines, they added. At 1500 the F.T. index was up 7.2 at 725.2.

Leading industrials mainly showed gains of between a penny and 5p though ICI was up 10p at 550p and Guest Keen gained 8p at 179p, after a high of 181p. Government bonds were up to ¼ point firmer, but finished off the day's highs, dealers added.

North American shares were mixed while gold shares were easier with hartsies off \$1 at \$82.50.

London registered mining finance houses were a firm feature with RTZ registered shares rising 2½p to 61½p, after 61½p, after a bullish U.K. press article on the company. Other stocks rose in sympathy and Cons Gold added 1½p at 58½p.

Racal opened with a 2p loss at 477p but rose 1½p to 487p, a net gain of 8p, on news it had won a defence contract with the Royal Navy worth over £30 million initially, dealers said. Marley was 3p higher at 73p, after 74p, following interim results.

B.P. reversed an earlier 4p loss to close 4p higher at 404p while BOC added 9p at 236p and Barclays rose 3p to 487p ahead of the interim results due this Friday, dealers noted.

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

|                   |                 |                   |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| One sterling      | 1.5038/48       | U.S. dollars      |
| One U.S. dollar   | 1.2332/35       | Canadian dollars  |
|                   | 2.6605/15       | West German marks |
|                   | 2.9728/38       | Dutch guilders    |
|                   | 2.1437/47       | Swiss francs      |
|                   | 33.28/32        | Belgian francs    |
|                   | 8.0060/90       | French francs     |
|                   | 1574.50/1575.50 | Italian lire      |
|                   | 243.23/33       | Japanese yen      |
|                   | 7.8000/10       | Swedish crowns    |
|                   | 7.4425/75       | Norwegian crowns  |
|                   | 4.5630/40       | Danish crowns     |
| One ounce of gold | 412.60/413.10   | U.S. dollars      |

### THE BETTER HALF By Harris

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#### LOANS



### JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



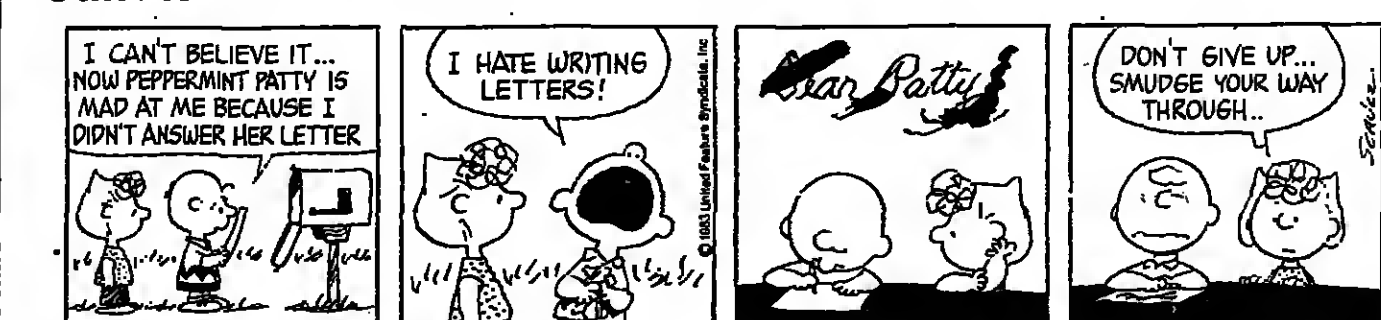
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A "PIRE HAZARD" (Answers tomorrow)

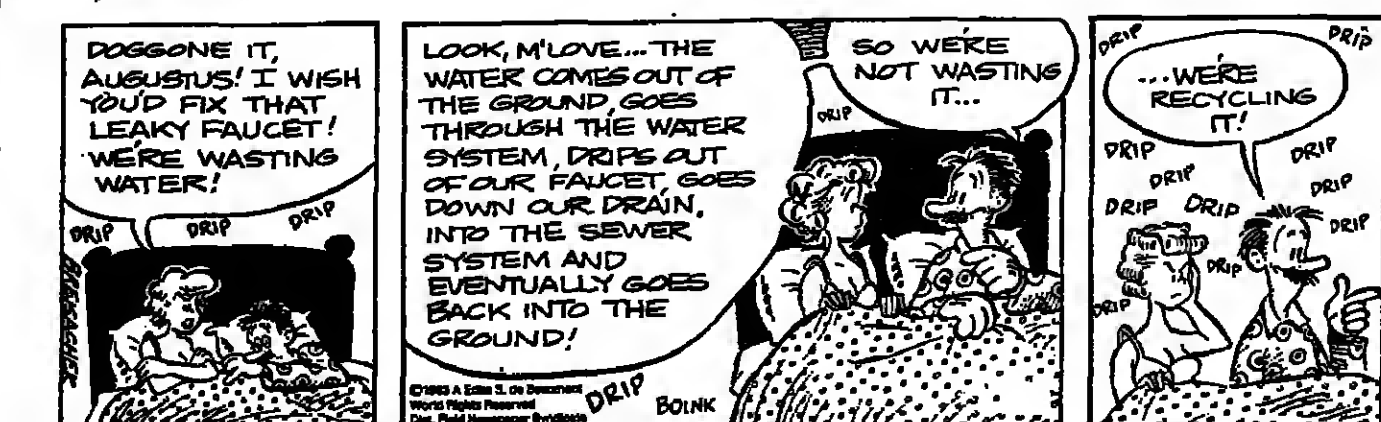
Saturday's Jumbles: RHYME AUDIT HAMPER FRENZY

Answer: If she ever told her real age, her birthday cake would be this — A FIRE HAZARD

### Peanuts



### Mutt 'n' Jeff



### Andy Capp



### FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The whole daytime is wonderful for expressing yourself, stating your interests and activities, handling public relations, writing or discussions, so take full advantage.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get your ideas across to others during the daytime and gain their help, but stay at home in the evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have good ideas how to add to present abundance and can handle monetary affairs well, also.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can involve yourself in personal affairs and get good results now. First make appointments to see others.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Consider your abilities well and start a new plan so that you can use them most wisely. Socialize tonight.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Fine day for contacting friends and exchanging good ideas with them, being of mutual help. Relax at home tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Know what it is that bigwigs expect of you and then gain support for some project that means much to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can put those new ideas in operation easily today and can also gain support for them from bigwigs.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Follow your hunches today which are very good and can help you in your operations, then go after data you need.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Your partners are very favorable toward you and you can get your ideas across to them very easily.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study your duties well first, then you can handle them most efficiently. Make a good impression on those around you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Fine day for getting into the outlets that you really like, and get other work done tonight at home.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Fine day for deciding what you want to do at home and put such in operation with the OK of kin. Utilize talents.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be most articulate and be very good at selling. He or she should be taught early to complete whatever has been started before going on to another project, otherwise your progeny will never accomplish anything.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

### FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: One of those days that is not too important but you can work out matters connected with public relations, writings, delving into the difficulties facing you.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be more careful with communications and know exactly what others expect of you. Be careful in handling machinery.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be more particular with property interests so that you gain and not have loss. Pay off debts.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be sure you know what it is you want in personal affairs otherwise you can get very confused. Use tact at social affairs.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You want to renege where some responsibility is concerned but this would only bring you trouble.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) If you are forceful with a friend you will meet with stiff resistance. A sudden change of plans proves fruitful.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You cannot understand why one in business cannot agree with your plans but respect the other person's views.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Take care that one who thinks differently from you does not cause you to change any plans you have made.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make sure you keep that agreement you made with your mate, even though you want to renege on it now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Carry through with some agreement you made with a partner. Make necessary revisions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Although your work may seem annoying today, go ahead and do it just the same and gain the profits.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Although you are looking forward to a good time, this may not come to fruition. Persevere and all will be well.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You hope that the situation at home will rectify itself, but it will take more time because of complications.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will early in life understand the difficulties connected with making a living and who will have the feet firmly on the ground, so early plan for a fine education so that your progeny can become quite successful in life.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!



## WORLD

## U.S. releases details of Honduran war games

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. military exercises with Honduras will include troop landings in one of two areas felt by the government there to be threatened by guerrillas from neighbouring Nicaragua, according to the commander of the planned war games.

But U.S. troops will be "instructed to avoid any and all situations that could involve them in hostilities," Gen. Paul Gorman said.

He was speaking as U.S. officials expressed cautious optimism about a diplomatic settlement in Central America, wracked by civil war in El Salvador and threatened with war between leftist Nicaragua and rightist Honduras. America's chief ally in the region.

Republican congressmen who met President Reagan at the White House described his general attitude as optimistic and said he planned to vigorously pursue recent peace overtures by Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Dr. Castro said last week that Cuba would halt military aid to Nicaragua if an agreement could be negotiated for all nations to stop sending military aid and advisers anywhere in the region.

Gen. Gorman told the Senate armed services committee that one site chosen for the exercises was on the north coast near Puerto Castilla, where Honduran officials were concerned about guerrilla infiltration.

Gen. Gorman, head of the U.S. Southern Command, based in Panama, said there would be a major marine landing there, along with anti-guerrilla exercises.

The second site was along the

Gulf of Fonseca, a strip of coastline in southern Honduras between Nicaragua and El Salvador which the Nicaraguan government is alleged to have used to funnel arms to rebels fighting the U.S.-backed government in El Salvador.

Gen. Gorman said the initial party of U.S. troops would arrive in Honduras between Aug. 12 and 15 and the exercises would be staged in a series in early 1984.

Destroyer stops freighter

MANAGUA (R) — The Soviet freighter Alexander Ulyanov, said by President Reagan to have been carrying arms to Nicaragua, was stopped by a U.S. destroyer on Saturday and the captain asked what cargo it carried, crew members said Tuesday.

They told reporters invited on board the ship, due to begin unloading Wednesday that the Ulyanov had been stopped 95 kilometers off the Nicaraguan coast by a destroyer they identified only as U.S. Navy X.

"They said to identify ourselves, asked what cargo we were carrying and where we were going," he said. "We answered that we were the Alexander Ulyanov, that we were going to Corinto, Nicaragua, and that we were carrying general merchandise," the crew members

said. The U.S. destroyer — which from its number would appear to be the Lynde McCormick, according to listings in Jane's Fighting Ships, the authoritative British guide to the world's navies — responded that the Ulyanov could continue its voyage.

The communication was by radio, the crew said. Nicaraguan port director Cesar Delgadillo told Reuters earlier this week that the Ulyanov was carrying medicine, tractors, construction equipment and consumer goods.

Mr. Delgadillo said that only 20 of the 218 vessels to dock at Corinto, Nicaragua's main port, so far this year were Soviet. They mainly carried fertilizer, wheat and consumer goods, he said, adding: "They have not brought arms of any sort."

## 46 Miskitos released

MANAGUA (R) — The Nicaraguan government Tuesday released 46 Miskito Indian prisoners who had been charged with participating in the "red Christmas" of December 1981, in which rebel Indians attacked two towns near the Honduran border.

Interior Minister Thomas Borge told a press conference atrocities committed by the Indians had been the result of ignorance and superstition rather than maliciousness.

He said 274 Miskitos were now being held in Nicaraguan jails and some would soon be released. The 46 former prisoners were flown to their homes Tuesday.



BACK TO WORK: Solidarity chairman Lech Walesa returned to his job as an electrician in the Lenin shipyards in Gdansk on Monday, vowing to hold another meeting with the Solidarity underground, but declining to discuss future union strategy. (A.P. wirephoto)

## China invites Soviet envoy

PEKING (R) — China has invited Soviet Vice Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa to visit Peking, a foreign ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

Spokesman Qi Huaiyuan told reporters Chinese Junior Foreign Minister Qian Qichen made the invitation after Mr. Kapitsa expressed a desire to come. No date has yet been fixed.

The sources linked the visit with a planned trip to Peking next month by United States Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. China and the Soviet Union have made several economic and cultural overtures to each other recently.

## France contests British claim

PARIS (R) — French officials have contested a British claim that France turned away black British daytrippers arriving in northern French ports, saying those refused entry were not British citizens.

Interior Ministry officials said Wednesday that 45 blacks on a coach trip to Calais who were denied entry on Sunday were Jamaicans. They were not carrying British passports and had only short-stay identity cards.

"Others turned away from Calais and Boulogne recently were from Grenada, Mauritius, Ghana, Trinidad and Jamaica," the officials said.

## Snake found in PIA jet

MANILA (R) — Passengers on a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight had an unpleasant experience on a flight from Tokyo to Manila Tuesday — a one metre snake which had escaped from a cage in the cargo hold.

Officials said the passengers remained calm until the plane landed and Manila firemen captured the reptile, described as looking like a California king snake.

## Snake found in PIA jet

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## Hong Kong negotiations put off till September 22

PEKING (R) — Chinese and British officials discussing the future of Hong Kong wound up their third round of detailed talks Wednesday, and agreed to meet again on Sept. 22.

The widely expected news was announced by Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Qi Huaiyuan at a briefing for foreign correspondents.

Mr. Qi gave no indication of what progress, if any, was made concerning the British colony, over which China says it intends to regain sovereignty by 1997.

He merely read a terse agreed statement that: "The two sides had further talks on Aug. 2 and 3. As planned, talks will resume in September. The next round will be on Sept. 22 and 23."

While the first round of this phase of negotiations in mid-July was described as useful and constructive, and last week's second series of meetings was termed useful, no such characterization was used Wednesday.

British embassy officials say

ambassador Sir Percy Cradock, negotiating team head, and Hong Kong Governor Sir Edward Youde, also taking part, will report to British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe in London this month.

The two sides began negotiations last autumn after the Chinese government told Britain it intended to regain sovereignty over Hong Kong by 1997, when Britain's 99-year lease on most of the territory expires.

Hong Kong Island itself and the tip of the Kowloon Peninsula were ceded to the British in perpetuity in the mid-19th century.

A dispute about technical sovereignty over these two areas was believed to have caused the first phase of the talks to bog down.

But last month the two sides came together again, apparently as the result of a compromise by which the sovereignty issue was set aside and discussions were confined to how Hong Kong was to be administered after 1997.

## Reagan 'perplexed' by reports of widespread hunger in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has ordered the setting up of a White House inquiry group to report on the causes of hunger in the United States.

In a statement released by the White House Monday, Mr. Reagan said that in making the move he was responding to news reports of widespread hunger in this country.

"I am deeply concerned about the extent to which we have a (hunger) problem that should not exist in this great and wealthy country," he said.

"America is literally the breadbasket of the world... yet, I have seen reports in the press in past weeks of Americans going hungry."

One White House aide conceded privately that the announcement was part of a broader campaign to counteract allegations that Mr. Reagan's policies were unfair to the poor.

Mr. Reagan has been sharply criticized by opponents for trying to limit eligibility for food stamps, vouchers the government gives to people living in poverty to help

them buy food. His 1984 budget proposal calls for a cut to \$16 billion from \$17.4 billion in federal spending on food and nutrition programmes.

Robert Carlson, a member of the White House policy office, which develops policy guidelines, acknowledged that Mr. Reagan had not received any internal administration reports alerting him to the hunger problem.

Mr. Reagan directed Edwin Meese, counsellor to the president, to form what he called a task force "to examine the extent of America's hunger problem, to determine its causes, and to recommend solutions."

The group is to report in 90 days. In the White House directive to Mr. Meese, President Reagan said he was "perplexed" by the news reports of hunger in the U.S.

Mr. Reagan said he thought the government was taking care of hungry people.

He said he wanted to know if money the government spent on food programmes was being mismanaged and if more was needed.

## Sri Lankan death toll reaches 295

COLOMBO (R) — The official death toll from ethnic violence which swept Sri Lanka last week has risen to 295, government spokesman Douglas Liyanage said Wednesday.

He said the killings took place between July 23 and 31 in clashes that had also forced 79,000 members of the minority Tamil community to flee their homes.

Mr. Liyanage said no killings had taken place during the past two days and the country had returned to normal.

The official death toll in riots involving the majority Sinhalese and the Tamils, the bloodiest since independence in 1948, had previously been 215.

The violence was sparked by the killing of 13 soldiers on July 23 by separatist Tamil guerrillas in the northern district of Jaffna.

Mr. Liyanage said police last week received 1,438 reports of arson, 76 of looting and nearly 300 of "mischiefs."

A panel of supreme court judges Wednesday began examining legislation that would ban parties advocating separatism, to decide if it is constitutional. The legislation is due to go before parliament Thursday.

The government has outlawed three leftist parties for allegedly instigating the unrest, which it said was part of a plot inspired from abroad.

## Passengers thwart hijack

HOUSTON (R) — Angry passengers on a Pan Am airliner Tuesday night jumped a would-be hijacker trying to commandeer the jet to Cuba and tied him to a seat.

The man was identified by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) officials as a 30-year-old Cuban after the Boeing 727 landed safely at Houston, its original destination.

It was the second time in two weeks that passengers have thwarted an attempted hijacking aboard a U.S. airliner.

The man rushed from economy class into the first class section 20

minutes after Pan Am flight 925 left Miami for Houston with 121 passengers.

He held a newspaper over his head as though he had a gun, according to one of the passengers, but he was not in fact armed. "When he went into I thought he was sick and then he started yelling something in Spanish and I heard the word Cuba," Ralph Symons, 52, said.

He said he and two other passengers, retired Pan Am employee Spicer Lung and his son Spicer Lung Jr., both of Houston, ran behind the man and grabbed him.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Cancer victim sues cigarette makers

NEWARK, New Jersey (R) — A woman suffering from lung cancer has filed a court action against three cigarette manufacturers, claiming that their product caused her illness. Rose Cipollone, 57, and her husband Antonio claim the cigarettes made by the Liggett Group, Philip Morris Inc. and Loews Corp. — makers of the brands she smoked for 40 years — were "unsafe and defective." They said she contracted lung cancer as a direct result. The Cipollones charge that the three firms had scientific and medical data on the hazards of smoking but ignored or failed to act upon the data, "conspiring to deprive the public" of that information.

## Chilean junta clears ex-minister

SANTIAGO (R) — Chile's military rulers said Tuesday they would not pursue legal action against former Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdes, jailed last month on charges of helping to publicise a day of anti-government protest on July 12. The decision came after the Supreme Court last week cleared Mr. Valdes, 64, and five others and ruled peaceful anti-government demonstrations were not a crime. Chileans are preparing for another day of protest on Aug. 11, the fourth in recent weeks.

## India studies Soviet reactor offer

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said Wednesday her government was examining a Soviet offer to help India build two nuclear power plants. She told parliament that Indian experts had visited the Soviet Union to discuss details. The offer for two plants of 400 megawatts each was made in September when Mrs. Gandhi visited the Soviet Union. The prime minister, who looks after the Atomic Energy Department, said talks have not been held with any other country for building larger nuclear power plants in India.

## 4 jailed Spanish officers released

MADRID (R) — Four Spanish Civil Guard captains jailed for three years each for their part in an abortive 1981 coup attempt were released Wednesday, the ministry of defence said. A spokesman said the four were granted conditional liberty for good conduct and because they had completed three-quarters of their sentences.

## Poles turn away 20 Western pacifists

VIENNA (R) — A group of 20 Western pacifists, turned away from the Polish border on a peace march from the United States to Moscow, said Wednesday they were waiting in Vienna for Polish visas to continue their journey. Group spokeswoman Paula Boulton from Britain said they had hoped to reach Oswiecim, site of World War II Nazi death camp of Auschwitz in south Poland, by Aug. 6, the day the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. They had planned to fast there for a day, as part of a world-wide pacifist "fast for life", before going on to Moscow.

## WCC document hailed as milestone in church unity

VANCOUVER (R) — The World Council of Churches has described as a major milestone in the quest for Christian unity a document in which Roman Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican theologians reached agreement on sacramental doctrines.

Officials of the WCC's faith and order commission, which seeks to resolve theological division

among Christians, said at a press conference Tuesday that the council's governing assembly was expected to give its assent to the document, called "Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry."

They said the paper would be the basis for calling a major world unity conference in 1987, which would aim at achieving a mutual recognition of the churches' ordained ministries.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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## FINE NEW BOOK ON DEFENSE

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ 10 7 4  
♥ Q 10 5 4  
♦ A Q 10  
♣ 10 8 6

**WEST** ♠ K Q 5  
♥ A 8 3  
♦ 8 7 4 2  
♣ 9 5 4

**EAST** ♠ A 8 3  
♥ J 9 2  
♦ J 9 6  
♣ J 7 3 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass  
3 NT Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead: King of ♠.

Former world champion Mike Lawrence is rapidly becoming one of our most prolific authors. And that is welcome, because he has a lot of interesting things to say. His new book, *Dynamic Defense* (Devyn Press, 226 pp., paperback, \$9.95. Available from Bridge World, 39 West 94th Street, New York, NY 10025, \$9.50 postpaid) is sure to be a winner.

You follow the bidding and play as if you were at the table, seeing first your hand

only, then dummy, and you have to defend 65 deals of varying difficulty. But each hand also has an extra point of interest. For example, this is the first hand in the book. To appreciate it to the full, cover the West and South hands and decide how you would defend after partner leads the king of spades and continues with the queen. Do you overtake the ace to unblock the suit?

If you did, you gave declarer a present of a spade trick and his contract, so let's assume you made the correct play of a low spade. Partner leads a third spade and you win the ace. What now?

You should know that declarer has the jack of spades, but even so he might not have nine tricks. It is vital to exit safely, and the only suit in which you can accomplish that for certain is in diamonds. Declarer wins in his king and partner's ace. Later, you score the jack of hearts for the setting trick.

How did you know not to overtake the queen of spades? You'll have to buy the book to find out the answer to that one. It will be \$10 well spent.

## THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

FIREWORKS  
By Ralph H. Beaman

## ACROSS

1 Borders  
3 Salsa  
11 Tells all  
18 Blunder  
19 Fix, as brakes  
20 Put back on  
21 "I'll with  
22 Way out of a  
23 Wild trap  
24 Kind of camp  
25 Counterweights  
27 Mountain pools  
28 Spanish gold  
29 Recaptures  
30 Fields  
31 Of electric  
32 Resistant  
33 Neonate  
35 Floating ice  
60 Jog

## DOWN

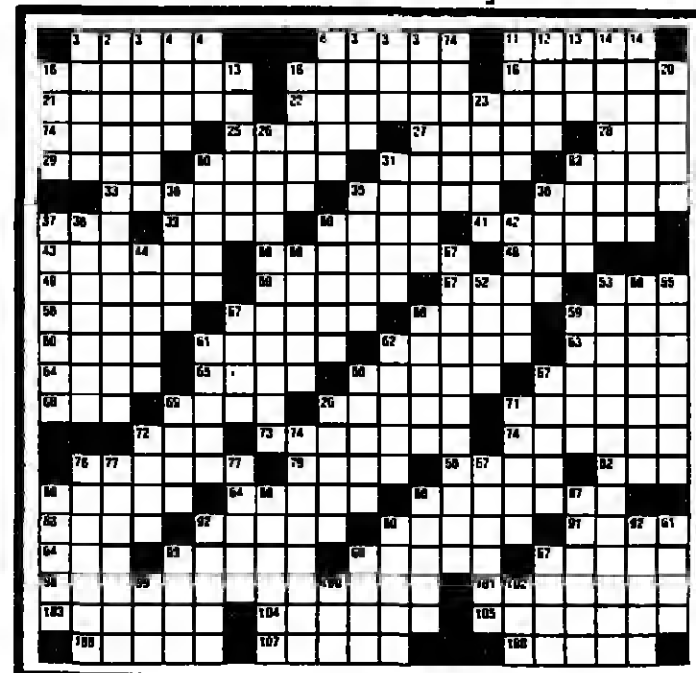
1 Pond plants  
2 The start, to  
3 Come into view  
4 Autocrat  
5 South, Fr.  
6 Spills  
7 High mountains  
8 Sars  
9 Board opening  
10 Open —  
11 Wild horse  
12 Camera part  
13 Dunderhead  
14 Observes  
15 Kind of  
16 Gob  
17 British gas  
18 Showed an old  
20 Pell  
23 Part of IRA  
25 Sprayer  
26 Kind of drink  
31 Few, prof.  
32 — over (study)  
34 Intergalactic  
35 B.C.'s — Bottom  
36 "Nothing like  
37 Certain  
38 Chicken  
39 Vienna's land  
40 Band wand  
41 Skips  
42 Kind Fr.  
43 Spring flower  
44 European food  
45 Sluggishness  
55 Lual dili  
57 Swine river  
58 "Turnabout"  
59 Natural  
61 Irrigator  
62 Dred  
63 Allocated  
64 Surrounded  
65 Cold cuts  
66 Cold cuts  
67 Lila lila  
68 And others,  
69 briefly  
70 "sender"  
71 List  
72 Last  
73 Ignorant  
74 Foolish

## Diagramless

17 X 17, by R.M. McWhirk

## ACROSS

1 "Red" — at  
2 "Courage"  
3 "For want of  
4 "a shoe..."  
5 Passage  
6 Birds  
7 Jugs of e  
8 Spiritualist's  
9 meeting  
10 Conceals  
11 Open to  
12 Summer drink  
13 Wrath  
14 Rule  
15 Value in  
16 Certain plant  
17 — and bolts  
18 Author of  
19 "The Citadel"  
20 Cotton bundle  
21 Cuckoo  
22 Newscler  
23 Maudlin's  
24 Now  
25 Otherwise  
26 Anguished look  
27 Now  
28 In the sack  
29 — and rhina  
30 Asian river  
31 Not any  
32 Morse, for one  
33 English school  
34 Mix  
35 Roses  
36 Words by  
37 Caesar  
38 Al no line,  
39 — lower  
40 "Mable"  
41 Blue Eagle  
42 Letters  
43 Fat money  
44 Relics  
45 Leave out  
46 City of Peru  
47 Shift direc-  
48 Gambler's  
49 packs  
50 Regions  
51 Rictus  
52 Work bench  
53 gripper  
54 Recedes  
55 Sated bar  
56 dish  
57 Biblical  
58 prophet  
59 Eyespeck of  
60 a telescope  
61 Jackie's late  
62 husband



Last Week's Cryptogram

1. Colorful gossip gains strength as it passes from month to month, etc. (imagined)
2. Daffy ice cream nut thought strawberry blonde was another lovely flavor.
3. Color-hungry parking meters may gobble up those nickels.
4. Kind boy took feeble cow off new cow loaded with hay.

## CRYPTOGRAMS

1. LRHMK, HMYAMPYXYAS AUFOPFAOAEFOYPV  
IAYMK A'NVPYMAS FJA VRKYZPV PMS NOPZ  
FYZPV IAMAXYFE RX APOFJVL IORFJAQJRES.  
—By Rita Dew

2. ELFOLP KUTSFC BYPL TSPENYKVV, GYV AL  
ALWE D'UP BNPSFC GNKESENLV UD YSK  
CLFEW.  
—By Martha P. Germer

3. BLOWSE NEPLYO ATE SOBLOWN LO 'NAPTOY  
NEPLYO BLOWN.  
—By Len Sherry

4. MNAACH OUBBOC MECCIC UHECCDNESCA BUE  
EOCDW MHFFIC.  
—By E.L. Livingston

